

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS
STEPPING DOWN



Peter Robinson Northern Ireland First Minister arrives at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Northern Ireland, Monday, Jan. 11, 2010. Former Northern Ireland First Minister David Trimble has called on his successor, Peter Robinson, to step down after the revelation that his wife had an affair with a teenager.

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SPORTS NEWS
LEAVING SCHOOL



In this Jan. 1, 2009 file photo, Southern California coach Pete Carroll celebrates during the third quarter of the Rose Bowl NCAA college football game against Penn State in Pasadena, Calif.

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OIL	Price of a barrel of petroleum
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Reid says he won't dwell on controversy

By DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid sought to slam the book shut Monday on a controversy stemming from remarks about President Barack Obama's race and dialect, and a string of forgiving statements from prominent blacks made clear his leadership post is not in immediate jeopardy.

"I've apologized to the president," he said, and to everyone "within the sound of my voice that I could have used a better choice of words." He spoke in Apex, Nev., his first public comments since the issue flared over the weekend.

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Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., left, accompanied by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., right, and Senate Democrats, gestures during a health care news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2009.

Associated Press

Judge has questions in gay marriage trial in U.S.

LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The first federal trial to determine if the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from outlawing same-sex marriage got under way Monday, with a judge peppering both sides with questions during their opening statements. Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn R. Walker asked attorney Theodore Olson, who represents two same-sex couples suing to overturn Proposition 8, how the ban could be called discriminatory, since California already allows domestic partnerships.

Olson drew comparisons to some state laws banning interracial marriage in the 1960s that would have banned President Barack Obama's parents from getting married.

Charles Cooper, a lawyer for sponsors of the ban approved by voters in 2008, said in his opening statement that it's too difficult to know the impact of gay marriage on traditional marriage because the practice is still so new.

He urged the court to take a wait-and-see approach.

Regardless of the outcome of the case, it's likely to be appealed



From left, Paul Katami, Jeff Jeff Zarrillo, left, and Paul Katami, Kris Perry and Sandy Stier talk outside a home in San Francisco, Monday, Jan. 11, 2010. The two same-sex couples are plaintiffs in a federal court case on California's same-sex marriage ban. The federal trial is scheduled to begin later Monday in San Francisco. It will consider whether the Proposition 8 gay marriage ban approved by California voters in November 2008 is legal.

Associated Press

to the U.S. Supreme Court, where it ultimately could become a landmark that determines if gay Americans have the right to marry.

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Demonstrators for and against same-sex marriage protest during a rally in front of a federal courthouse in San Francisco, Monday, Jan. 11, 2010. The first federal trial to determine if the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from outlawing same-sex marriage gets under way in San Francisco on Monday, and the two gay couples on whose behalf the case was brought will be among the first witnesses.

GAY MARRIAGE

Continued from Front Page

About 100 people demonstrated outside the federal courthouse. Most were gay marriage supporters who took turns addressing the crowd with a microphone. About a dozen gay marriage foes stood in the back

of the gathering and quietly held signs demanding the ban remain in place.

Two hours before trial was scheduled to start, the high court blocked video of the proceedings from being posted on YouTube.com. It said justices need more time to review that

issue and put the order in place at least until Wednesday.

Over the weekend, Proposition 8's sponsors sought to block YouTube broadcasts. Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn R. Walker, who is overseeing the trial, had approved the plan last week, saying the

Associated Press

case was appropriate for wide dissemination because it dealt with an issue of wide interest and importance.

At trial, Walker intends to ask lawyers on both sides to present the facts underlying much of the political rhetoric surrounding same-sex marriage. Among his questions are whether sexual orientation can be changed, how legalizing gay marriage affects traditional marriages and the effect on children of being raised by two mothers or two fathers.

"The case is intriguing, exciting and potentially very significant because it addresses multiple important questions that, surprisingly to many, remain open in federal law," said Jennifer Pizer, marriage director for the gay law advocacy group Lambda Legal. "Can the state reserve the esteemed language and status of marriage just for heterosexual couples, and relegate same-sex couples to a lesser status? Are there any adequate public interests to justify reimposing such a caste system for gay people, especially by a majority vote to take a cherished right from

a historically mistreated minority?"

The sponsors of Proposition 8, which passed with 52 percent of the vote, won permission to defend the law in court after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown refused to. The attorney general and the governor are defendants in the case because of their positions in state government.

Lawyers for the measure's backers plan to argue that because same-sex marriage still is a social experiment, it is wise for states like California to take a wait-and-see approach. Their witnesses will testify that governments historically have sanctioned traditional marriage as a way to promote responsible child-rearing, and that this remains a valid justification for limiting marriage to a man and a woman.

While other courts have wrestled with the constitutional issues raised by prohibiting same-sex marriages — the Supreme Court last took a look at the issue 38 years ago — Walker's court is the first to employ live witnesses in the task. □



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NJ Legislature approves medical marijuana bill

By ANGELA DELLI SANTI
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. — The Legislature on Monday approved a bill that would make the state the 14th to allow chronically ill patients access to marijuana for medical reasons.

Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine supports the legislation and could sign it before leaving office next week, making it law.

The bill allows patients with ailments such as cancer, AIDS and multiple sclerosis to buy up to 2 ounces of marijuana a month at state-monitored dispensaries.

Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, a Princeton Democrat, was a co-sponsor of the bill and pushed for it for years. He said medical marijuana can alleviate suffering and there's no evidence it increases overall drug use.

"I don't think we should make criminals out of our very sick and terminally ill," he said.

Incoming Republican Gov.

Chris Christie, a former federal prosecutor, said he supported the concept of the bill but remained concerned that a loophole could lead to abuses.

A compromise bill was worked out after some other lawmakers expressed similar concerns. For example, a provision allowing patients to grow marijuana was removed.

Driving while high would continue to be against the law.

The other states that permit medical use of marijuana are Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

New Jersey's legislation authorizes the Department of Health to issue to patients with "debilitating medical conditions" registry ID cards that allow them to use marijuana. Patients with specified diseases such as

cancer and glaucoma must also demonstrate severe or chronic pain, nausea, seizures, muscle spasms or wasting syndrome to qualify.

Patients with registry cards would be immune from arrest or prosecution for the medical use of marijuana.

Gusciora said the legislation, titled the Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act, would be the nation's strictest such law.

Lawmakers said they wanted to make sure New Jersey didn't duplicate California's liberal marijuana laws, which they said border on decriminalization of the drug.

"We have learned from the mistakes of other states," Senate co-sponsor Nick Scutari, a Democrat from Linden, said after the vote.

The Senate vote was 25-13; the Senate previously approved a less restrictive version. The earlier Assembly vote was 48-14.

Advocates and patients, who had waited for hours for the



In a Friday, Dec. 18, 2009 photo, Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, poses atop the New York headquarters. Washington is one of four states where measures to legalize and regulate marijuana have been introduced, and about two dozen other states are considering bills ranging from medical marijuana to decriminalizing possession of small amounts of the herb.

Associated Press

final vote, cheered the outcome. Nancy Fedder, a 62-year-old multiple sclerosis sufferer who lives in Hillsborough, gets around in a scooter and said she has used marijuana for years to reduce pain.

"I'm in heaven," she said after the Senate vote. "It means I am no longer a criminal in the state

of New Jersey." Roseanne Scotti, director of Drug Policy Alliance New Jersey, an organization that says it's dedicated to making the state a leader in drug policy reform, thanked lawmakers for voting their consciences. "We are absolutely thrilled," she said. "This really was a triumph of compassion." □

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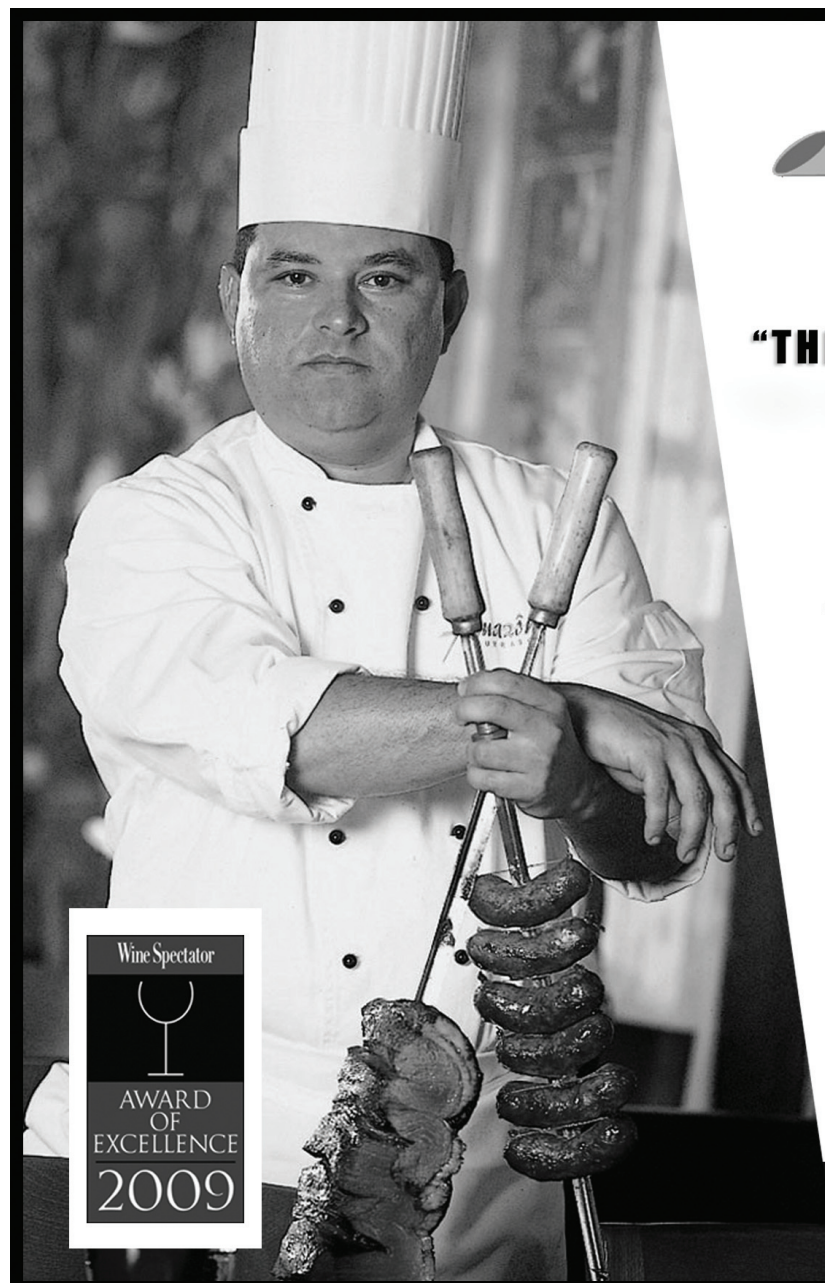
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Sarah Palin takes Fox News commentator job



In this Sept. 3, 2008 file photo, Republican vice presidential candidate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, pumps her fist during her speech at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn. Palin believed that Sen. John McCain chose her to be his running mate in 2008 because of "God's plan," according to a top political strategist in the Arizona Republican's campaign.

RACHEL D'ORO,
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Sarah Palin, former Alaska governor and 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate, will take her conservative message to Fox News as a

regular commentator, the cable channel announced Monday. "I am thrilled to be joining the great talent and management team at Fox News," Palin said in a statement posted on the network's Web site. "It's wonderful to be part of a

place that so values fair and balanced news."

Fox said that according to the multiyear deal, Palin will offer political commentary and analysis. She also will host occasional episodes of Fox News "Real American Stories," a series featuring true inspirational stories about Americans. "Governor Palin has captivated everyone on both sides of the political spectrum and we are excited to add her dynamic voice to the FOX News lineup," Bill Shine, executive vice president of programming, said in a statement.

Palin is hugely popular with conservatives and has more than 1.1 million Facebook followers.

She stepped down as Alaska governor in July, 17 months before the end of her first term in office. Her resignation came less than a year after she vaulted to overnight fame as John McCain's running mate. Palin worked part-time as a weekend sportscaster in the 1980s for KTUU-TV in Anchorage. Her upcoming commentary career had her Facebook fans giddy with excitement Monday. □



The yet-to-be-released book, 'Game Change', about the 2008 presidential campaign is seen at the Associated Press in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, the top Democrat in the U.S. Senate, apologized on Saturday for comments, quoted in the book, which he made about then-Sen. Barack Obama's race during the 2008 presidential bid.

Associated Press

CONTROVERSY

Continued from Front Page

"I'll continue to do my work for the African-American community ... I'm not going to dwell on this any more," he added.

While nationally prominent Democrats ranging from Obama to the Rev. Al Sharpton have rallied to his side, the impact of the gaffe in Reid's home state of Nevada is unpredictable. The 70-year-old majority leader is seeking re-election this fall, and recent polls show him

trailing potential Republican rivals.

Republicans have called on Reid to step down as majority leader, a move that would undermine his re-election chances in Nevada, where he is running as a powerful senior lawmaker who can deliver for his home state.

As majority leader, Reid has been the point man for the past year in trying to pass Obama's legislative program through the Senate, and there was no public evidence the controversy has eroded his standing. Any change in leadership would be felt most immediately in the drive to win final passage for health care legislation, an area in which he has committed enormous amounts of time, energy and credibility.

Reid's remarks in his home state were his first in public since the weekend disclosure that he had described Obama during the 2008 presidential campaign as a light-skinned African-American "with no Negro dialect, unless he wanted to have one." Those reflections appear in a new book, "Game Change," by Time magazine's Mark Halperin and New York magazine's John Heilemann. Reid swiftly telephoned his apologies to the president, who accepted them and issued a statement saying, "As far as I am concerned, the book is closed."

Two days later, Reid said he agreed on that last point, and sought to shore up his civil rights credentials. "As a very young man in the state of Nevada I was one of the leaders of the civil rights movement in Nevada, and it had a lot of moving to do," he said. □

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Balloon boy's dad dashes into jail without a word

P. SOLOMON BANDA,
Associated Press Writer
FORT COLLINS, Colorado (AP) — There was no last second proclamation of innocence or even a statement to the handful of reporters waiting in the freezing cold for the man who pleaded guilty to orchestrating the balloon boy hoax.

Richard Heene arrived at the Larimer County Detention Center on Monday with his wife and co-defendant, Mayumi, in the couple's red minivan with a busted-out rear window. Heene, wearing a dark knit cap, sunglasses and a heavy jacket, ran inside the building carrying a plastic grocery bag.

He ran back to the minivan and grabbed his driver's license before heading back to the jail to begin serving a 90-day sentence for the Oct. 15 event that captivated a television audience for an entire afternoon.

Mayumi Heene, who pleaded guilty to filing a false report and must serve a 20-day jail term once her husband is out, pulled the hood of her sweatshirt over her head and drove away alone.

"He's in general population already," said Larimer County sheriff's spokeswoman Eloise Campanella. "The marching orders are, 'Treat him like any other inmate.'"

During a media blitz last week, Richard Heene said he truly believed his 6-year-old son Falcon was inside the metallic balloon that floated away from his backyard. He said he pleaded guilty only to appease authorities and save his wife from being deported to Japan.

Authorities said Mayumi Heene confessed to deputies, but Richard Heene told The Associated Press last week that his wife misunderstood the meaning of the word "hoax" when she purportedly admitted her crime.

"My wife's first language is Japanese, not English," he said. "My wife came home in tears wondering what she

might have said. She opened this Japanese-to-English dictionary, and she walks up to me crying her head off, and she says to me, 'I thought hoax meant an exhibition.'"

In other interviews last week, Heene said investigators presented inconsistencies to the media, and he denied

calling a TV station before dialing emergency police dispatchers, as authorities said he did. Authorities dismissed Heene's arguments.

District Attorney Larry Abrahamson said it was the Heenes and their attorneys, not prosecutors, who brought up the issue of deportation. □



Richard Heene, right, and his wife Mayumi arrive at the Laramie County Detention Center where Heene turned himself in to begin his 90-day jail sentence on Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, in Fort Collins, Colo.

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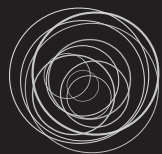
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N. Ireland head steps down after wife's teen affair



Arlene Foster, acting Northern Ireland First Minister, speaks to the media at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Northern Ireland, Monday, Jan. 11, 2010. Northern Ireland's Protestant leader temporarily stepped down Monday, forced out of office by a torrid scandal over his wife's affair with a teenager. Northern Ireland's First Minister Peter Robinson had been under pressure since it was revealed that his wife Iris had a 19-year-old lover whom she helped raise tens of thousands of pounds (dollars) for his business. She was 58 at the time.

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PETER MORRISON, Associated Press Writer
BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — The peace process faces a new challenge as Northern Ireland's leader was forced to step down — at least temporarily — amid outrage following revelations of his wife's affair with a teenager. In an emotional statement Monday, First Minister Peter Robinson said he would step aside for a few weeks to answer questions about his wife's romantic and financial dealings with the 19-year-old for whom she helped raised tens of thousands of pounds (dollars) when she was 58. Iris Robinson, also a lawmaker, said last week that she began the affair less than two years ago while she was suffering a bout of mental illness and comforting someone after a family death. Giving few details, she said she had encouraged friends to give her lover financial support. The British Broadcasting Corp. reported that Iris Robinson allegedly solicited 50,000 pounds (\$80,000)

from people in business so her lover could open a restaurant. The BBC suggests Peter Robinson acted improperly by failing to alert parliamentary authorities about the financial transactions. The scandal has outraged Peter Robinson's socially conservative Protestant power base, and threatened to undermine the Democratic Unionist Party's partnership with the Catholic Sinn Fein — critical to maintaining Northern Ireland's shaky coalition government. Looking pale and drawn on Monday, Peter Robinson said his wife was now receiving psychiatric treatment and that he was stepping down to deal with family matters and to allow an inquiry to take place. He denied any wrongdoing. "I continue to contend I have acted ethically, and it is particularly painful at this time of great personal trauma that I have to defend myself from an unfounded and mischievous allegation," he said. If Robinson had resigned outright, Britain's secretary

for state Shaun Woodward had said he would have to call a snap Assembly election, unless all sides of the power-sharing executive agreed on a successor within seven days. Robinson's temporary departure sidesteps the need for elections, but his party's partnership with Sinn Fein is already badly strained by disagreements over who will run the province's justice system. Officials in Britain have expressed concern that the turmoil could hurt the peace process at a sensitive time. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown issued a statement late Monday urging "all politicians in Northern Ireland, whatever the turbulence of recent events, to remain focused on the business of government and to recognize the crucial importance of intensifying engagement in those issues which remain to be solved." Robinson's Protestant colleague Arlene Foster, who replaces him, promised lawmakers that the 61-year-old politician would be back "with a clear record," quickly. But Britain's and Ireland's governments fear that the scandal weakens Robinson's party in its negotiations with Sinn Fein over if and how responsibility for policing and justice should be transferred to the Assembly. Sinn Fein wants the Assembly to take charge of policing and justice as soon as possible, while parts of the Democratic Unionist Party want to wait until finances are in place for the move and the communities involved feel comfortable. Robinson said he would continue to work on policing and justice, even without holding the title of First Minister. □

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U.S. dismisses North Korean call for peace treaty

BY HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea proposed signing a peace treaty this year to formally end the Korean War, a suggestion that Washington quickly dismissed.

In a move seen as an attempt to bolster its negotiating position, the isolated communist regime said a return to negotiations on its nuclear weapons program depends on better relations with Washington and the lifting of sanctions.

However, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters Monday that peace treaty talks would only be discussed once North Korea comes back to six-nation nuclear talks and takes steps on abandoning its nuclear programs.

As for dropping sanctions, Crowley said, "We're not going to pay North Korea to come back to the six-party process."

He urged North Korea to "say yes" to returning to the talks "and then we can begin to march down the list of issues that we have."

North Korea has long demanded a peace treaty, but the prospects seem dim with South Korea suspicious that its rival is using the issue as a distraction and a U.S. official saying Monday that the authoritarian North must improve its human rights record before any normalization of ties.

Washington and Pyongyang have never had diplomatic relations because the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, thus leaving the peninsula technically at war. North Korea, the U.S.-led United Nations Command and China signed a cease-fire, but South Korea never did.

North Korea, which claims it was forced to develop atomic bombs to cope with U.S. threats, quit six-nation nuclear talks last year in anger over international condemnation of a long-range rocket launch.

The country later conducted its second nuclear test, test-launched a series of ballistic missiles and restarted its plutonium-producing facility, inviting widespread

condemnation and tighter U.N. sanctions.

After months of tension, however, the North said last month it understood the need to resume the talks with the U.S., South Korea, China, Russia and Japan following bilateral talks with the U.S. in Pyongyang, another longtime demand. Still, the country did not make a firm commitment on when it would rejoin the forum.

Now, the North is saying the resumption of the six-nation nuclear talks depends on building confidence between Pyongyang and Washington by quickly starting talks on a peace treaty and lifting the sanctions.

"If confidence is to be built between (North Korea) and the U.S., it is essential to conclude a peace treaty for terminating the state of war, a root cause of the hostile relations," the country's Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

Such a confidence-building measure is necessary to "bring back the process for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula on track," the statement said.

The United States has resisted signing a treaty while the North possesses nuclear weapons. Washington, however, has said the subject can be discussed as part of six-party nuclear talks, which have not been held for more than a year.

Stephen Bosworth, President Barack Obama's special envoy on North Korea, said last month after the talks in Pyongyang that he conveyed a message from Obama calling for the "complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula" and underlined Washington's willingness to help bring the isolated country back into the international fold. He also said discussion of a peace treaty could take place within the six-party talks framework.

Rival South Korea is suspicious of the North's calls for a peace treaty, which it has said are a tactic to delay denuclearization. China, which hosts the six-party talks and fought on North Korea's side during the Korean War,

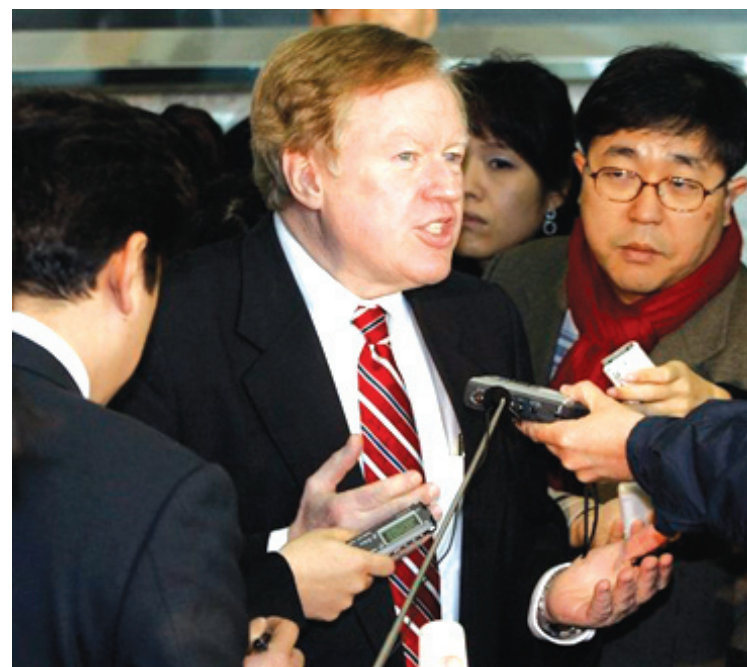
seldom says anything about a treaty, though analyst Baek Seung-joo of the state-run Korea Institute for Defense Analyses said the country has no reason to oppose one "as long as it helps resume the six-party talks."

The North's statement called for a peace treaty to be concluded this year, which it emphasized marks the 60th anniversary since the outbreak of the Korean War.

A landmark disarmament-for-aid deal in 2005, part of the six-party talks, states that "the directly related parties will negotiate a permanent peace regime on the Korean peninsula at an appropriate separate forum." And a subsequent 2007 deal upheld the previous accord.

Analysts said the North's proposal likely means it wants to elevate the signing of a peace treaty as a key issue in the nuclear disarmament talks.

"We can see its concealed intention to soften discussion of its denuclearization," said Yang Moo-jin of Seoul's University of North Korean Studies.



U.S. special envoy on North Korean human rights Robert King speaks to reporters after meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Jan. 11, 2010. King said that the human rights situation in North Korea must improve before the country can normalize relations with the United States.

Associated Press

Baek agreed, saying the North seeks international recognition as a nuclear weapons state.

"I don't think they are truly aiming to establish a permanent peace on the Korean peninsula," Baek said.

The North's statement said the peace talks could be held within the framework of the

six-party talks or at a separate forum as agreed in a 2005 disarmament pact.

Baek and Yang said it would be difficult for the U.S. and other regional powers to reject the North's demand because it was part of previous six-party deals. □

China says missile defense system test successful

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press writer

BEIJING — China announced that its military intercepted a missile in mid-flight Monday in a test of new technology that comes amid heightened tensions over Taiwan and increased willingness by the Asian giant to show off its advanced military capabilities.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported late Monday that "ground-based midcourse missile interception technology" was tested within Chinese territory.

"The test has achieved the expected objective," the three-sentence report said. "The test is defensive in nature and is not targeted at any country." Monday's report follows repeated complaints in recent days by Beijing over the sale by the U.S. of weaponry to Taiwan, including PAC-3 air defense missiles. These sales are driven by threats from China to use force to bring the island under its control, backed up by an estimated 1,300 Chinese ballistic missiles positioned along the Taiwan Strait. Communist-ruled China split with Taiwan amid civil war in 1949 and continues to regard the self-governing democracy as

part of its territory. Beijing has warned of a disruption in ties with Washington if the sale goes ahead, but has not said what specific actions it would take.

In Washington, the U.S. Defense Department said it had no notice before the Chinese test but that the United States does not consider it related to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

"We did not receive prior notification of the launch," Maj. Maureen Schumann, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said. "We detected two geographically separated missile launch events with an exo-atmospheric collision also being observed by space-based sensors. We are requesting information from China regarding the purpose for conducting this interception as well as China's intentions and plans to pursue future types of intercepts." China's military is in the middle of a major technology upgrade, spurred on by double-digit annual percentage increases in defense spending. Missile technology is considered one of the People's Liberation Army's particular strengths, allowing it to narrow the gap with the U.S. and other militaries that wield stronger conventional forces. □



In this 1998 photo Miep Gies displays a copy of her book "Anne Frank Remembered" at her apartment in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Anne Frank called them the Helpers. They provided food, books and good cheer while her family hid for two years from the Nazis in a tiny attic apartment.

By ARTHUR MAX

Associated Press Writer

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Miep Gies, the office secretary who defied the Nazi occupiers to hide Anne Frank and her family for two years and saved the teenager's diary not, has died, the Anne Frank Museum said Tuesday. She was 100.

Gies' Web site reported that she died Monday after a brief illness. The report was confirmed by museum spokeswoman Maatje Mostar, but she gave no details. The British Broadcasting Corp. said she died in a nursing home after suffering a fall last month.

Gies was the last of the few non-Jews who supplied food, books and good cheer to the secret annex behind the canal warehouse where Anne, her parents, sister and four other Jews hid for 25 months during World War II.

After the apartment was raided by the German police, Gies gathered up Anne's scattered notebooks and papers and locked them in a drawer for her return after the war. The diary, which Anne Frank was given on her 13th birthday, chronicles her life in hiding from June 12, 1942 until August 1, 1944.

Gies refused to read the papers, saying even a teenager's privacy was sacred. Later, she said if she had read them she would have had to burn them because they incriminated the "helpers."

Anne Frank died of typhus at age 15 in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in March 1945, just two weeks before the camp was liberated. Gies

Associated Press

gave the diary to Anne's father Otto, the only survivor, who published it in 1947.

After the diary was published, Gies tirelessly promoted causes of tolerance. She brushed aside the accolades for helping hide the Frank family as more than she deserved — as if, she said, she had tried to save all the Jews of occupied Holland.

"This is very unfair. So many others have done the same

Miep Gies, who helped hide Anne Frank, dies at 100

or even far more dangerous work," she wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press days before her 100th birthday last February.

"The Diary of Anne Frank" was the first popular book about the Holocaust, and has been read by millions of children and adults around the world in some 65 languages.

For her courage, Gies was bestowed with the "Righteous Gentile" title by the Israeli Holocaust museum Yad Vashem.

She has also been honored by the German Government, Dutch monarchy and educational institutions.

Nevertheless, Gies resisted being made a character study of heroism for the young.

"I don't want to be considered a hero," she said in a 1997 online chat with schoolchildren.

"Imagine young people would

grow up with the feeling that you have to be a hero to do your human duty. I am afraid nobody would ever help other people, because who is a hero? I was not. I was just an ordinary housewife and secretary."

Born Hermine Santrouschitz on Feb. 15, 1909 in Vienna, Gies moved to Amsterdam in 1922 to escape food shortages in Austria. She lived with a host family who gave her the nickname Miep.

In 1933, Gies took a job as an office assistant in the spice business of Otto Frank. After refusing to join a Nazi organization in 1941, she avoided deportation to Austria by marrying her Dutch boyfriend, Jan Gies.

As the Nazis ramped up their arrests and deportations of Dutch Jews, Otto Frank asked Gies in July 1942 to help hide

his family in the annex above the company's canal-side warehouse on Prinsengracht 263 and to bring them food and supplies.

"I answered, 'Yes, of course.' It seemed perfectly natural to me. I could help these people. They were powerless, they didn't know where to turn," she said years later.

Jan and Miep Gies worked with four other employees in the firm to sustain the Franks and four other Jews sharing the annex. Jan secured extra food ration cards from the underground resistance. Miep cycled around the city, alternating grocers to ward off suspicions from this highly dangerous activity.

In her e-mail to the AP last February, Gies remembered her husband, who died in 1993, as one of Holland's unsung war heroes. □

Mexico opens 2010 with one of its deadliest day

MARTHA MENDOZA

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico opened the new year with what could be its most dubious distinction yet in the 3-year-old battle against drug trafficking — 69 murders in one day.

The country resembled a grim, statistical dart board Saturday as law enforcement and media reported the deaths from various regions, including 26 in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, 13 in and around Mexico City and 10 in the northern city of Chihuahua.

More than 6,500 drug-related killings made 2009 the bloodiest year since President Felipe Calderon declared war on the cartels in late 2006 and deployed 45,000 soldiers to fight organized crime, according to death tallies by San Diego's Trans-Border Institute. Two weeks into 2010, gang bloodshed is becoming more grotesque as drug lords ramp up their attempts at intimidation. Last week a victim's face was peeled from his skull and sewn onto a soccer ball. On Monday,



Mexico's Attorney General Arturo Chavez smiles during a news conference in Mexico City, Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009. Mexican Navy marines stormed an upscale apartment complex Wednesday and killed alleged drug cartel chief Arturo Beltran Leyva in a two-hour gun battle, one of the biggest victories yet in President Felipe Calderon's drug war.

Associated Press

prosecutors in Culiacan identified the remains of 41-year-old former police officer divided into two separate ice chests. "You wonder how this will end, and it seems impossible," said Daniel Vega, an architect in the northern city of Monterrey. "I doubt Mexico can override drug use, especially since demand for the drugs, as well as all the money and weapons, come

from the United States."

Using their so-called Narcobarometer, researchers at the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute track and analyze murders in Mexico, hoping to find ways to quell the violence. Their tally? More than 20,000 murders since 2001, more than half in the past two years.

"It does appear that the violence has grown

exponentially, but it's not clear that it's necessarily a slippery downward slope from here," institute director David Shirk said, noting that government operations — including a December raid that killed cartel boss Arturo Beltran Leyva — have hit seven of Mexico's eight significant cartels. Shirk said the remaining, mostly unscathed Sinaloa cartel headed by billionaire drug boss Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman may now become dominant, reducing the deadly power struggles.

"If that happens, it's quite possible that six months from now things will be much calmer," Shirk said.

Though almost all of drug-violence victims are somehow involved with cartels, the impact is felt well beyond law enforcement and organized crime.

"I'm afraid to take to the streets every day because of the violence, and I no longer want to excel economically because it could make me an easy target for a kidnapping," said Silvana Cervantes, a Monterrey nurse. □

Kenyan official: Radical cleric to stay in prison

BY TOM ODULA,

Associated Press Writer

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)

— A radical Jamaican-born Muslim cleric whose teachings influenced one of the 2005 London transport network bombers will stay in a Kenyan prison until authorities find a way to send him home, Kenya's immigration minister said Monday.

Otieno Kajwang said Sheik Abdullah el-Faisal was jailed because he is a threat to the security of the country. Kajwang said he issued the order that el-Faisal be held in jail but declined to say for how long. Kenyan law allows police to hold suspects for 24 hours without charging them.

Britain has said that el-Faisal's teachings heavily influenced one of the men who carried out the London bombings that killed 52 people.

The Jamaican-born cleric has called for Americans, Hindus and Jews to be killed.

"We are, as a country, still of the opinion that this gentleman is not safe for Kenya," Kajwang told reporters. "We are in a very difficult situation which we must tackle but in the interest of the country we will not release him until we send him home." Attempts to deport el-Faisal last Thursday failed because he was denied a transit visa when he arrived in Nigeria en route to Gambia, which had agreed to host him. El-Faisal was flown back to Kenya Sunday morning.

Kajwang said by the time el-Faisal got to Nigeria, Gambian authorities had also refused to grant him entry because of the "bad publicity" surrounding his deportation.

Britain, South Africa, Tanzania and the U.S. have declined to grant el-Faisal a transit visa that would allow him to connect to flights to Jamaica.

El-Faisal served four years in a British jail for inciting murder and stirring racial hatred by urging followers to kill Americans, Hindus and Jews. He once led a London mosque attended by convicted terrorists.

Human rights activists have protested el-Faisal's imprisonment saying that he was being held in jail without trial.

Al-Amin Kimathi, the coordinator of the Muslim

Human Rights Forum, asked the government to release el-Faisal to the custody of the Muslim community in the country until they make proper arrangements to deport him. He said el-Faisal's detention is proof of discrimination against Muslims in Kenya.

He said el-Faisal had not committed any offense in Kenya and should not be imprisoned.

Kimathi said the el-Faisal has requested to be taken to Geneva. Kimathi said that from Geneva el-Faisal can take a connecting flight to Jamaica.

El-Faisal's lawyer, Mbugua Mureithi, said his client's rights had been violated because he has been denied legal representation. He said he had spoken with el-Faisal on phone from prison, who complained that he was never been served with the deportation orders. Mbugua said he is seeking a court order to compel the government to release el-Faisal.

Kajwang said el-Faisal's arrest should not be misconstrued as a religious war.

"It is a war against an individual who we have good reason to exclude from Kenya," he said.

El-Faisal arrived in Kenya on Dec. 24, but immigration officials at a border point did not know who he was because a database that has the watch list was shut down while new software was being installed. Kenyan authorities only realized he was in the country a week later.

Internet postings purportedly written by a Nigerian man now charged with trying to bomb a U.S.-bound airliner on Dec. 25 referred to el-Faisal as a cleric he had listened to.

The posting was made in March 2005 under the name "farouk1986"—the years suspect Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was born. Officials haven't verified that the postings were written by Abdulmutallab, but details from the posts match his personal history.

El-Faisal preached at London's Brixton mosque in the 1990s before being ejected by mosque authorities because of his support for violent jihad. The mosque was attended at different times by Richard Reid, who is serving a life sentence in a U.S. prison after a failed 2001 attempt to blow up an airplane, and convicted Sept. 11 plotter Zacarias Moussaoui. □



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French New Wave director Eric Rohmer dies at 89



FILE - In this Sept. 7, 2001 file photo, then 81-year-old French film director Eric Rohmer holds the Golden Lion career achievement award he received during the 58th Venice Film Festival in northern Italy. Eric Rohmer, who directed 'Le Genou de Claire' (Claire's Knee) in 1969, 'Chloe in the Afternoon' in 1972 or 'Les Amours d'Astree et Celadon' in 2007, died Monday, Jan. 11, 2010. He was 89.

(AP Photo/Claudio Honorati, Pool-File)

By ANGELA DOLAND,
Associated Press Writer

PARIS — French New Wave director Eric Rohmer, known for "My Night at Maud's," "Claire's Knee," and other films about the intricacies of romantic relationships and the dilemmas of modern love, died on Monday. He was 89. Rohmer, also an influential film critic early in his career, died in Paris, said Les Films du Losange, the production company he co-founded. The cause of death was not immediately given. The director — internationally known for his films' long, philosophical conversations — continued to work until recently. His latest film, the 17th-century costume tale "Les amours d'Astree et de Celadon," ("Romance of Astree and Celadon"), appeared in 2007. In 2001, Rohmer was awarded

a Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival for his body of work — dozens of films made over a five-decade career.

Rohmer's movies were full of romantic temptation and love triangles, pretty girls and handsome youths. Often they took a lighthearted, chatty form, with serious themes hidden under the surface.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy paid tribute to a "great auteur who will continue to speak to us and inspire us for years to come." "Classic and romantic, wise and iconoclast, light and serious, sentimental and moralist, he created the 'Rohmer' style, which will outlive him," Sarkozy said in a statement. Six of Rohmer's films comprised an influential cycle of "moral tales" that addressed the thorny questions of modern love: whether to compromise your beliefs in the face of passion, for example, or how to maintain a sense of individual freedom in a relationship. In 1969's "Ma nuit chez Maud" ("My Night at Maud's"), a churchgoing young engineer played by Jean-Louis Trintignant must choose between a seductive divorcee and a woman who meets his ideals. The film's screenplay was nominated for an Academy Award.

In 1970's "Le Genou de Claire" ("Claire's Knee"), a diplomat is overwhelmed by his desire to stroke the knee of a teenage girl he meets.

France's culture minister, Frederic Mitterrand, said Rohmer's "very personal, very original" movies appealed to cinephiles and ordinary filmgoers alike.

Serge Toubiana — who heads the Cinematheque, France's famous film preservation society — said Rohmer worked closely with his crews and described his creative process as a collaborative effort with the actors.

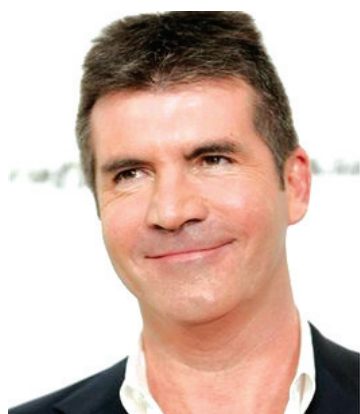
"He knew that he needed them and because of that he showered them with love," Toubiana told France Info radio. "Each film was a kind of shared game, with its own rules in which each person played his role."

Born in 1920 in the central French city of Tulle, Rohmer got his start as a literature professor and a film critic for the influential Cahiers du Cinema magazine, becoming its editor. Though his name at birth was Maurice Scherer, he created his artistic pseudonym by rearranging the sounds in his first and last name to come up with Rohmer, he told Le Monde newspaper in 2007.

As a director, Rohmer became a leading force in France's convention-smashing New Wave cinema, alongside directors Jean-Luc Godard and Francois Truffaut, his colleagues at the Cahiers. With Claude Chabrol, another director, Rohmer published a classic study on one of their heroes, Alfred Hitchcock.

Along with his series of moral tales, Rohmer produced a cycle of modern-day relationship fables for each season of the year, and another dubbed the cycle of "comedies and proverbs," with each film taking its inspiration from a proverb. One popular film in that series was 1983's "Pauline a la plage" ("Pauline at the Beach"), focusing on a teenager on a seaside holiday. Thierry Fremaux, who runs the Cannes Film Festival, told BFM television that though Rohmer's films weren't "trendy," they were timeless. "He proved that you can make great movies with small budgets," Fremaux said. "And that's good to keep in mind in the times we live in."

Rohmer was a very private person, but his survivors are believed to include his younger brother, philosopher Rene Scherer, and his son journalist Rene Monzat. □



FILE - In this Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009 file photo, Simon Cowell poses on the press line at the Elton John Academy Award viewing and after party in West Hollywood, Calif. Cowell's brother says the next season of 'American Idol' will be the judge's last. Tony Cowell said in his weekly podcast, 'The Cowell Factor,' that a statement was being prepared that would certify that the acerbic British judge was leaving the popular Fox signing competition at the end of 2010.

(AP Photo/Dan Steinberg)

Cowell says he's leaving 'Idol'

By LYNN ELBER,
AP Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. — Simon Cowell, the acerbic Brit who has helped give "American Idol" some of its sharpest — and nastiest — moments, will leave the popular singing show after this season.

The cantankerous judge said that "The X Factor," a show he created and is a hit in Britain, will join Fox's schedule next year. Cowell will be on "The X Factor."

Cowell's decision is the biggest threat yet to what has been the country's most popular TV program and a true cultural force. This season, original host Paula Abdul has been replaced by Ellen DeGeneres.

But Cowell, with his caustic commentary, has long been seen as the big star of "Idol."

He said it would have been difficult for him to do both shows. While he makes a reported \$36 million a year to be on "American Idol," he owns "The X Factor" and could

make much more if the show takes off.

Cowell and top Fox executives made the announcement to reporters in Pasadena at a meeting of the Television Critics Association, saying they had reached an agreement only a few hours before.

"I was offered a lot of money to stay on," Cowell said. "But that wasn't the reason behind it. I wanted to do something different.

I wanted a new challenge."

Peter Price, chairman of the Fox Broadcasting Co., would not speculate on possible replacements for Cowell.

"We have to take our time on that," Price said. "We have to make sure the chemistry of the judges is as good as it can be."

Cowell said he didn't want to leave "American Idol" at a time when it was fading in the ratings.

"You want to leave on a high," he said. "I'm very proud of what the show has achieved." □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Jan. 11, 2010. Stocks zigzagged early Monday as investors awaited an earnings from Alcoa Inc. for more signs that the global economy is healing.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Stocks end mostly higher ahead of Alcoa results

By STEPHEN BERNARD
and TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks have ended mostly higher as investors shift into defensive areas like utilities and as higher exports from China boost industrial stocks.

Investors also spent the day awaiting quarterly earnings from Alcoa Inc., which is expected to report its results later Monday.

A report that Chinese exports jumped by nearly 18 percent in December has lifted industrial stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average is up 46 at 10,664, a new 15-month high. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 2 at 1,147. The Nasdaq composite index is down 5 at 2,312.

Three stocks rose for every two that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume fell to 966.9 million shares from 994.2 million shares Friday.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors made modest moves Monday as they awaited an earnings report from Alcoa Inc. A drop in the dollar lifted some commodity prices.

Stocks traded in a tight range ahead of Alcoa's report, which will give the market one of the first looks at how companies fared in the final quarter of 2009.

Traders also looked to a report that Chinese exports jumped by nearly 18 percent in December. The bigger-than-expected increase follows 13 straight months of declines. The increase in exports has added confidence to investors who believe a global economic rebound is well under way.

"The global economy is healing," said Roy Williams, CEO of Prestige Wealth Management Group in Flemington, N.J. However Williams cautioned that the recovery will still face "a lot of potholes." On Friday, for example, the Labor Department reported a larger than expected number of job losses for December.

Later Monday, Alcoa kicks off the fourth-quarter corporate earnings season, which the market hopes will provide insight into how fast the economy is recovering. □

Heineken to buy Mexico's Femsa for \$5.5B in shares

By TOBY STERLING,
AP Business Writer

AMSTERDAM — Dutch brewer Heineken NV said Monday it will buy the beer-making operations of Mexico's Femsa in an all-share deal that values the maker of Dos Equis, Tecate and Sol beers at \$5.5 billion, excluding debt.

The buy increases Amsterdam, Netherlands-based Heineken's presence in growth markets and cements its position as the world's second-largest brewer by sales. It also continues a decade-long trend toward concentration among the biggest players in the global beer market. Femsa Cerveza brands have a 43 percent market share in Mexico and a 9 percent share in Brazil — two of the world's top four most profitable beer markets, and both still fast-growing. Femsa's Tecate and Dos Equis brands are also significant players in the U.S. imported beer market, where Heineken vies with Grupo Modelo's Corona. "This is a really good deal for Heineken, for our position in the Americas," Heineken Chief Executive Officer Jean-Francois van Boxmeer said on a conference call. "As a worldwide brewer, this was a (region) where we perhaps were weaker."

Femsa Cerveza had sales of euro2.6 billion (\$3.8 billion) and operating profits of euro618 million in 2008, Heineken said. Including debt that Heineken will assume, the deal is worth \$7.6 billion (euro5.3 billion).

Analysts welcomed the buy as a pleasant surprise, given that many had expected SABMiller PLC — now the world's third largest brewer by sales behind Anheuser-Busch InBev SA and Heineken — to win the race for Femsa.



FILE - This is a Wednesday Feb. 21, 2007 file photo of Heineken CEO Jean-Francois van Boxmeer as he smiles during a photo call in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Heineken NV said Monday Jan. 11, 2010 it will buy the beer-making operations of Mexico's Femsa in an all-share deal that values the maker of Dos Equis, Tecate and Sol beers at US\$5.5 billion (euro3.8 billion), excluding debt. Heineken said the buy cements its position as the world's second-largest brewer by sales, will help it grow in Mexico and Brazil, and will strengthen its position in the U.S. imported beer market.

(AP Photo/Peter Dejong/File)

Analyst Kris Kippers of Petercam Bank praised the deal as a "a great acquisition for Heineken" because Femsa was one of the few remaining large independent brewers in growth markets — and Heineken didn't overpay. Heineken now has 40 percent of its operations in developing markets, up from 32 percent. Heineken shares rose 3.3 percent to euro34 in Amsterdam, while SABMiller shares fell 2 percent to 1,801 pence in London. Femsa UBD's shares were down 12 percent to 55.35 pesos on the Mexican Stock Exchange at midday. Monterrey, Mexico-based Femsa — formally Fomento Economico Mexicano S.A.B. de CV — is one of Mexico's largest conglomerates, bottling Coca Cola and operating the Oxxo convenience store chain throughout much of Latin America, among other activities.

The acquisition is Heineken's second major buy in the past two years, as it bought Scottish

& Newcastle operations worth euro10.2 billion in May 2008 to become the largest brewer in Britain and Europe.

In the same year, Belgium's InBev bought Anheuser-Busch for \$52 billion, while South African Breweries bought Miller for \$3.6 billion in 2002.

"In the context of the reconfiguration of the global brewing landscape, scale and geographic diversification are more important than ever," said Femsa CEO Jose Antonio Fernandez Carbajal on Monday.

"This transaction responds to that imperative." He said the company would benefit from a clearer focus on its other operations and from its stake in Heineken. Heineken said it expects the deal to close in the second quarter, pending approval from regulators and shareholders. Under the deal, Femsa will take a 12.5 percent stake in Heineken NV and a 14.9 percent stake in its parent, Heineken Holding NV. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Carroll says challenge drove him from USC to NFL



University of Southern California football coach Pete Carroll comments on his leaving to become coach of the Seattle Seahawks during a news conference at the USC campus in Los Angeles on Monday, Jan 11, 2010. Carroll says the only reason he is leaving Southern California to become Seattle Seahawks coach is because the challenge was too good to pass up.

Associated Press

Jayson Williams pleads guilty in fatal NJ shooting

SAMANTHA HENRY
Associated Press Writer

SOMERVILLE, New Jersey (AP) — Former basketball player Jayson Williams pleaded guilty Monday to aggravated assault and will serve at least 18 months in prison for accidentally killing a limousine driver in his bedroom, finally closing one chapter in his troubled post-NBA life.

Williams was awaiting retrial on a reckless manslaughter count but pleaded guilty to the lesser count for the 2002 death of Costas Christofi.

Williams remained poised during the hearing and mostly answered yes and no questions, though he did tell the judge that he had not fully checked the gun's safety before snapping it closed.

"I didn't look in the direction the muzzle of the gun was pointed," he said, before admitting that his handling of the gun was reckless.

Williams, who was charged with drunken driving after crashing his SUV into a tree in New York last week, had about 25 stitches visible above his right eye.

The assault charge carries a minimum 18-month sentence because a gun was involved. The reckless manslaughter count would have carried a maximum 10-year prison sentence. Under his plea agreement, Williams will serve 18 months to five years in state prison and would be eligible for parole after 18 months.

Williams was acquitted in 2004 of aggravated manslaughter and convicted of trying to cover up the crime. The jury deadlocked on a reckless manslaughter count, and a retrial on that charge was due to start this week.

Witnesses testified during the trial that Williams was showing

By **GREG BEACHAM**

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Pete Carroll loves challenges and the NFL game. The Seattle Seahawks offered both, and not even Southern California could compete.

Carroll ended his nine-year tenure with the Trojans on Monday, leaving behind a program facing multiple woes for a lucrative deal to coach the Seahawks.

"If you know anything about me, you know I can't pass up this challenge," Carroll said.

USC quarterback Matt Barkley also said quarterbacks coach Jeremy Bates is leaving with Carroll after just one season, presumably to become the Seahawks' offensive

coordinator.

Carroll won 97 games, seven Pac-10 titles and two national championships at USC, but the school is under a cloud of an NCAA investigation and other scandals after its worst season since Carroll's first year. Although the charismatic 58-year-old coach spoke glowingly of his "gorgeous" tenure in Los Angeles, he jumped at the best — and timeliest — of many offers he's received over the years to return to the NFL, which he reveres as "the highest level of competition."

"I do not expect to ever be able to top what we just did," Carroll said. "I think it's just been a beautiful time together. It hurts to separate right now

... but it can't keep on going, because I can't pass up this opportunity."

Carroll's departure ends one of the most successful runs in college football history — perhaps right when it was about to become much less fun, considering the just-completed 9-4 season which ended USC's run atop the Pac-10 and snapped its string of BCS bowl games.

Carroll insisted his decision had nothing to do with the NCAA's lengthy look into his program, denouncing rumors of a rift between him and athletic director Mike Garrett. Carroll said he thought he "would be here forever."

But Seahawks owner Paul Allen pried the 58-year-old coach out of a comfortable oceanside life as one of the most popular sports figures in the nation's second-largest media market, with numerous charity endeavors and a team that helped fill the area's NFL void.

Carroll is taking along Bates, a longtime NFL assistant who essentially replaced Steve Sarkisian last year as the leader of the Trojans' offense. Sarkisian recruited Barkley before jumping ship to the University of Washington last year. "It's kind of disappointing to see them leave," Barkley said. "More than anything, it's a challenge to get better and just reach another level. I came to this school because I wanted to be a Trojan, and nothing about coaches leaving would change that for me."

Carroll's departure seeped out to his players through various unconfirmed reports in the media over the weekend. The Trojans who straggled into Heritage Hall for an afternoon meeting chose USC largely on the strength of Carroll's success and charisma, but they returned to classes Monday with no idea what was next.

Continued on Page 15



Former NBA basketball star Jayson Williams leaves Somerset County Courthouse in Somerville, N.J., with his wife, Tanya, after pleading guilty on Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, to aggravated assault, and will serve at least 18 months in prison for accidentally killing a limousine driver in his bedroom, finally closing one chapter in his troubled post-NBA life.

Associated Press

off a shotgun when he snapped the weapon shut and it fired, hitting Christofi. They also testified that Williams initially put the gun in the dead man's hands and told witnesses to lie about what happened.

The defense maintained the shooting was an accident and that Williams panicked afterward.

Years of legal sparring followed the trial.

Defense attorneys tried to get the case tossed out, citing a racial slur uttered by a white investigator during a meeting with other law enforcement officials. A judge, however, ruled against Williams, who is black, on appeal.

In November, it appeared a plea deal had been reached, but was indefinitely postponed at the last minute. His lawyers asked to be removed from his defense, citing client communication issues. □

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Rooney Rule: Are NFL teams complying?

By **BARRY WILNER**,
AP Football Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Recent minority interviews for NFL coaching jobs in Washington and Seattle under the Rooney Rule have raised questions whether the spirit of the rule has been violated. Former Colts coach Tony Dungy wonders about the process used by the Redskins, who interviewed assistant coach Jerry Gray for the head coaching position last month even though Jim Zorn still held the job. The Seahawks met with Vikings defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier on Saturday amid reports that Southern California coach Pete Carroll would be hired regardless of how impressive Frazier was. “That is not what the Rooney Rule is supposed to be, (that) you make up your mind and then interview a candidate for it anyway just to satisfy the rule,” said Dungy, who retired from coaching last year and now is an analyst on NBC’s “Football Night in America” show. “If the Jerry Gray situation is the way it has been described as happening, I don’t think it was fair. I don’t think I

would ever interview for a job if my boss was not out of the job. I don’t blame Jerry; it’s the position he was put in, if it happened that way.” Yet Dungy encourages all candidates to interview — under the proper procedures. “The idea of the rule is to slow down the process and get teams to do their homework and investigate a lot of candidates, not just minority candidates,” he said. “You went through the process, and in doing that sometimes you uncover people.” That’s what happened when the Steelers hired Mike Tomlin over assistants Ken Whisenhunt and Russ Grimm in 2007. Dungy believes Frazier’s numerous interviews — the Rams, Broncos, Lions, Dolphins, Falcons have spoken to him in past years, and he remains among the front-runners for the Buffalo position — will pay off, too. “Even in cases where you don’t get the job, I know Leslie interviewed with the Dolphins and know Bill Parcells came away impressed and told other people how impressed he was, and he is a sharp guy and that helps,” Dungy said. “That

goes a ways in promoting that diversity.” The Vikings declined to make Frazier available for comment Sunday. In the past, he has said he supports the Rooney Rule process, which was introduced after the 2002 season and became mandatory a year later. Vikings coach Brad Childress said Sunday only the interviewee can determine the legitimacy of the talks. “It’s really for the guy that’s being interviewed to decide what he feels like the intentions are,” Childress said. “Do you feel like it’s a good conversation? And those are all kinds of things that you try to ferret out before you get interviewed.” On Saturday, commissioner Roger Goodell said the Redskins and Seahawks had complied with the Rooney Rule in their coaching searches. League spokesman Greg Aiello added on Sunday: “The rule has been effective, teams are complying, and it has produced its intended positive results. Before the Rooney Rule, interviews with minority head coaching and GM candidates that are conducted now might never have taken place. Since the



In this 2008 file photo, Washington Redskins assistant coach Jerry Gray, L, appears. Former Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy wonders about the process used by the Redskins, who interviewed Gray for the head coaching position last month even though Jim Zorn still held the job, and In this Aug. 1, 2009, file photo, Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier attends NFL football training camp in Mankato, Minn. The Seattle Seahawks met with Frazier on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2009, amid reports that Southern California coach Pete Carroll would be hired regardless of how impressive Frazier was.

Associated Press

Rooney Rule, there has been an exceptional increase in the number of minority coaches who have had interviews, and there are far more minority coaches in the NFL, including head coaches, than in years past.”

Compliance with the Rooney Rule is overseen by the Fritz Pollard Alliance. Its chairman, John Wooten, played 10 seasons (1959-68) in the NFL as a guard — back when there were no minority head coaches. □



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Geoff Ogilvy, of Australia, poses with his trophy on the 18th green after winning the SBS Championship golf tournament in Kapalua, Hawaii, Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010. Ogilvy shot a 6-under-par 67 to finish at 22 under.

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Geoff Ogilvy was a wizard with the wedge, unflappable in the wind, found a new ally with his 5-wood and opened the PGA Tour season with another victory at Kapalua in the SBS Championship. It raised hopes for a big season, just as it did a year ago, and just as it should.

Ogilvy might only have seven PGA Tour victories, but they are quality wins — the U.S. Open at Winged Foot, twice at the Match Play Championship, another

World Golf Championship at Doral, and back-to-back victories against a field of PGA Tour winners. When he plays this well, the 32-year-old Australian believes he can beat anyone.

“When it’s good, it’s really good,” Ogilvy said after closing with a 6-under 67 for a one-shot victory over Rory Sabbatini. “I like how I play when I play good, so I’m not concerned about how good I can be when I’m actually playing well, because I think I can hang with most guys. I haven’t shown that I could do well when my game is a little

Associated Press

Ogilvy tries to sustain his success

off. I think that’s the sign of a really great player.”

The reference is Tiger Woods, and it was one of the few times at Kapalua that a conversation about the world’s No. 1 player was about his golfing ability. Ogilvy marvels at how Woods has played so consistently well for such a long time. He noted the times Woods didn’t have his best stuff and still managed to win, which accounts for the 82 victories worldwide.

“I think I need to get to that sort of point,” Ogilvy said. “I think I can. I think I can be a player who can win any golf tournament I play. I’ve just got to work to get through the bad days and bad patches.”

The familiar result at Kapalua — Ogilvy with the champion’s lei draped around his neck — was more about change.

Ogilvy didn’t look the same. A change in endorsement has him playing Titleist instead of Cobra, wearing Foot-Joys instead of Puma. The season began with a new regulation for grooves, with a less forgiving V-shape in wedges of every player’s bag.

The biggest difference was the discussion about Woods,

mainly because no one knows when — or even if — golf’s biggest star will return from a tawdry sex scandal that has kept him out of public view for two months.

“It’s going to linger for a while,” Ogilvy said. “It’s lost a bit of sting in the tabloids, hasn’t it? Which is going to happen. He is ... the best golfer ever — or appeared to be on the way there — and the most written-about golfer, and the most publicized golfer and everything. It’s going to take a long time.”

Ogilvy joined the conversation earlier in the week by suggesting No. 1 in the world might realistically be up for grabs, depending on how long Woods stays away and who plays well enough and long enough to catch him.

At the moment, Ogilvy is headed in the right direction.

Then again, he was headed that way a year ago. When he won the Match Play Championship in February, it was his third victory in seven starts worldwide, and few could find much fault with his game. Ogilvy is among the most well-rounded players

— power, super touch with the wedge, a good putter and a great thinker.

He didn’t win again for more than 10 months until Kapalua.

Ogilvy attributed that to too much work, not enough patience. He became addicted to hitting balls instead of worrying about posting a score, and then he tried forcing himself to play good golf. It was a vicious cycle.

“I had it in my head that I wanted to get something done with my golf swing,” he said. “The mission becomes hitting well on the range, rather than the course. You’re happy the way it’s going. This is great when it’s finally started working. And then it’s September, October.”

His epiphany came in early October at the Presidents Cup, even as he lost to Steve Stricker in singles the final day.

“I had a moment of clarity: ‘What are you trying so hard for? Here’s a ball and there is a hole. Just hit it that way.’ Keep it simple the whole time,” Ogilvy said.

It was simple enough Sunday in the final round, especially when he saw Sabbatini post a 63 to take the clubhouse lead at 21-under 271. Ogilvy was at 20 under when he turned and saw the leaderboard leaving the 13th green, and knew where he needed to finish.

Instead of trying to drive the green on the 272-yard 14th hole, he smartly laid up with 4-iron off the tee. A driver could land in more bad places than good ones, so he trusted his wedge and hit it to 4 feet for birdie. On the par-5 15th, he hit 5-wood to about 25 feet and two-putted for the outright lead. Pars over the last three holes were good enough.

“He played very smartly,” Sabbatini said. “We all know Geoff is an excellent golfer, but his strategy around the golf course is impeccable.”

Ogilvy was headed home to Arizona before going halfway around the world to Abu Dhabi on the European Tour, with no plans to play again until he defends another title at the Match Play Championship, hopeful his third child has been born by then. □



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CARROLL

Continued from Page 12

"I kind of didn't want to come to the meeting today, but it's something you've got to do," said tailback Allen Bradford, who will be the Trojans' top returning rusher with Joe McKnight's early departure for the NFL. "How he got us training and competing, I don't think that's ever going to leave us. The new coach coming in is going to see this team is hungry and wants to win."

Bradford planned to hold a players-only meeting in the locker room after Carroll's farewell address.

Garrett brushed past dozens of reporters after Carroll's news conference, maintaining his largely silent public stance about his troubled department, which sanctioned its own men's basketball program recently in an attempt to assuage the NCAA.

"I'm working on the next step, and when I finish, you'll hear about it," Garrett said. "I don't talk about my search."

Garrett's search for a replacement is likely to be speedy, with national signing day looming Feb. 3 and several recruits already wondering about their tentative commitments to USC. Barkley and Bradford said they planned to be on the phone with every recruit, encouraging them to stick with the Trojans.

Oregon State coach Mike Riley, a former USC assistant and 2001 candidate for the top job, is staying in Corvallis with a new three-year contract extension. Tennessee Titans coach Jeff Fisher is a former USC player and California native, but previously said he wasn't interested.

Jacksonville Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio, another former USC star with no college coaching experience, might be the most interested target for Garrett, though Jaguars owner Wayne Weaver is thought to want Del Rio back for an eighth season. Weaver and Del Rio are expected to meet Tuesday.

As for the NCAA investigation into allegations former USC tailback Reggie Bush and his family received improper benefits from a marketing agent, Yahoo! Sports reported Monday — citing unidentified sources — that the NCAA has concluded its inquiry.

Yahoo! Sports reported the NCAA's Committee on Infractions will meet from Feb. 19-21 to address what investigators uncovered at USC.

Another potential NCAA problem arose last month when McKnight was forced to sit out the Emerald Bowl while the school investigated his use of an SUV that was not registered to him.

USC punished itself for recruiting violations involving former basketball player O.J. Mayo, including a ban on postseason play this season. Mayo allegedly received improper cash and gifts while at USC and playing for former coach Tim Floyd, who quit in June. □

NBA Roundup

LeBron scores 41 as Cavs hold off Blazers 106-94

PORTLAND, Oregon. (AP) — LeBron James had 41 points and 10 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers held off a fourth-quarter Portland rally to beat the Trail Blazers 106-94 on Sunday.

Shaquille O'Neal had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who won their sixth straight against the Blazers.

James was 8 for 8 from the floor for 20 points in the first quarter alone. He finished 13 of 19 from the field and made 12 of 14 free-throw attempts.

Brandon Roy scored 34 points for the Blazers, who rallied to tie it at 87 with 6:55 left after trailing by as many as 17 points in the second half.

At Los Angeles, Andrew Bynum had 17 points and a career-high 18 rebounds as Los Angeles avoided its first three-game losing streak in nearly two years.

Shannon Brown added 19 points, Jordan Farmar scored 15 of his 17 in the second half, Kobe Bryant had 12 points on



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, left, goes to the basket past Portland Trail Blazers center Juwan Howard during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010. At right in background is Blazers guard Andre Miller.

Associated Press

4 of 21 shooting, and Derek Fisher 11 for the defending NBA champions.

Hakim Warrick had 14 points, Jodie Meeks 12, and Brandon Jennings, Luke Ridnour and Charlie Bell 10 each for the Bucks, who had won three straight but dropped to 5-11 on the road.

At Washington, Chris Paul scored eight of his 26 points

in the final three minutes to lead New Orleans to its sixth-straight win by beating Washington.

In other NBA games it was, Boston 114, Toronto 107; New Orleans 115, Washington 110; L.A. Clippers 94, Miami 84; San Antonio 97, New Jersey 85; Cleveland 106, Portland 94; and L.A. Lakers 95, Milwaukee 77. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

APNewsBreak: McGwire admits using steroids

RONALD BLUM,
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark McGwire finally came clean, admitting he used steroids when he broke baseball's home run record in 1998.

McGwire said in a statement sent to The Associated Press on Monday that he used steroids on and off for nearly a decade. During a 20-minute telephone interview shortly afterward, his voice repeatedly cracked.

"It's very emotional, it's telling family members, friends and coaches, you know, it's former teammates to try to get a hold of, you know, that I'm coming clean and being honest," he said. "It's the first time they've ever heard me, you know, talk about this. I hid it from everybody."

McGwire said he also used human growth hormone, and he didn't know if his use of performance-enhancing drugs contributed to some of the injuries that led to his retirement, at age 38, in 2001. "That's a good question," he said.

He repeatedly expressed regret for his decision to use steroids, which he said was "foolish" and caused by his desire to overcome injuries, get back on the field and prove he was worth his multimillion salary.

"You don't know that you'll ever have to talk about the skeleton in your closet on a national level," he said. "I did this for health purposes. There's no way I did this for any type of strength use."

McGwire hit a then-record 70 homers in 1998 during a compelling race with Sammy Sosa, who finished with 66. More than anything else, the home-run spree revitalized baseball following the crippling strike that wiped out the 1994 World Series.

Now that McGwire has come clean, increased glare might



This is a Sept. 27, 1998, file photo showing St. Louis Cardinals' Mark McGwire acknowledging the crowd at Busch Stadium, during a post-game ceremony where he received The St. Louis Award from the City of St. Louis, after hitting two home runs during the Cardinals' final game, to set a new major league single-season home run record with 70 home runs. McGwire has finally come clean, admitting he used steroids when he broke baseball's home run record in 1998. McGwire said in a statement sent to The Associated Press on Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, that he used steroids on and off for nearly a decade and he was apologizing.

Associated Press

fall on Sosa, who has denied using performance-enhancing drugs.

"I wish I had never played during the steroid era," McGwire said.

McGwire's decision to admit using steroids was prompted by his decision to become hitting coach of the St. Louis Cardinals, his final big league team. Tony La Russa, McGwire's manager in Oakland and St. Louis, has been among McGwire's biggest supporters and thinks returning to the field can restore the former slugger's reputation.

"I never knew when, but I

always knew this day would come," McGwire said. "It's time for me to talk about the past and to confirm what people have suspected."

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig also praised McGwire, saying, "This statement of contrition, I believe, will make Mark's re-entry into the game much smoother and easier."

He became the second major baseball star in less than a year to admit using illegal steroids, following the New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez last February.

Others have been tainted but have denied knowingly using illegal drugs, including Barry

Bonds, Roger Clemens and David Ortiz.

Bonds has been indicted on charges he made false statements to a federal grand jury and obstructed justice. Clemens is under investigation by a federal grand jury trying to determine whether he lied to a congressional committee.

"I'm sure people will wonder if I could have hit all those home runs had I never taken steroids," McGwire said. "I had good years when I didn't take any, and I had bad years when I didn't take any. I had good years when I took steroids, and I had bad years when I took steroids. But no matter what, I shouldn't have done it and for that I'm truly sorry."

Big Mac's reputation has been in tatters since March 17, 2005, when he refused to answer questions at a Congressional hearing. Instead, he repeatedly said "I'm not here to talk about the past" when asked whether he took illegal steroids when he hit a then-record 70 home runs in 1998 or at any other time.

"After all this time, I want to come clean," he said. "I was not in a position to do that five years ago in my congressional testimony, but now I feel an obligation to discuss this and to answer questions about it. I'll do that, and then I just want to help my team."

McGwire said he wanted to tell the truth then but evaded questions at that hearing on the advice of his lawyers.

"That was the worst 48 hours of my life," McGwire said.

La Russa immediately praised McGwire's decision to go public.

"His willingness to admit mistakes, express his regret, and explain the circumstances that led him to use steroids add to my respect for him," the manager said.

McGwire disappeared from

the public eye following his retirement as a player following the 2001 season. When the Cardinals hired the 47-year-old as coach on Oct. 26, they said he would address questions before spring training, and Monday's statement broke his silence.

"I remember trying steroids very briefly in the 1989/1990 offseason and then after I was injured in 1993, I used steroids again," McGwire said in his statement. "I used them on occasion throughout the '90s, including during the 1998 season."

McGwire said he took steroids to get back on the field, sounding much like the Yankees' Andy Pettitte two years ago when he admitted using HGH.

"During the mid-'90s, I went on the DL seven times and missed 228 games over five years," McGwire said. "I experienced a lot of injuries, including a ribcage strain, a torn left heel muscle, a stress fracture of the left heel, and a torn right heel muscle. It was definitely a miserable bunch of years, and I told myself that steroids could help me recover faster. I thought they would help me heal and prevent injuries, too."

Since the congressional hearing, baseball owners and players toughened their drug program twice, increasing the penalty for a first steroids offense from 10 days to 50 games in November 2005 and strengthening the power of the independent administrator in April 2008, following the publication of the Mitchell Report.

"Baseball is really different now — it's been cleaned up," McGwire said. "The commissioner and the players' association implemented testing and they cracked down, and I'm glad they did." □

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Page B10

Aruba 'a top Caribbean hotspot for Brits'

Aruba is now one of the top ten destinations in the Caribbean for UK travellers, according to the local tourist board. Official figures show that some 10,265 British tourists visited the island between January and September 2009, a 42% increase from the same period in the previous year. This represents the first time that Aruba has welcomed more than 10,000 visitors from the UK in one year.

The Aruba Tourism Authority said that it is expecting an 'even better 2010', with KLM set to boost access to the destination when it resumes flights from Amsterdam on 1 February. Joanna Walding, UK director of the agency, said: 'Despite the economic downturn, Aruba had a record year and remains one of the fastest growing destinations in the Caribbean for the UK market.'

'With more flights available and two major advertising campaigns going on, we are confident that the upward trend can be maintained for 2010.' A promotional initiative being launched this year will include new adverts on car panels, posters and LCD screens on the London Underground. □



Champions given best birthday party



PALM BEACH -- Buckets of Knock Out Nachos and pails of Buffalo Wings were served on Champions 10th anniversary. The popular sports bar at the Marriott Ocean



Club gave itself a memorable birthday party going back in time, rolling back a decade and affording the local florin great buying power.

Page B3



Ritz Carlton Las Vegas

Carlton is to open a luxury new resort on the Caribbean island of Aruba's famed Palm Beach

ORANJESTAD - The 320-room oceanfront resort, The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, will offer several restaurants, a luxurious spa, two swimming pools, 24-hour casino and Ambassadors of the Environment by Jean-Michel Cousteau family program, which introduces young guests to Aruba's natural wonders and cultural traditions. In addition to spacious rooms and suites, the hotel will include The Ritz-Carlton Club, a private floor accessible only by elevator key and offering light fare and dedicated concierge service throughout the day. The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, projected to open in late 2012, will be the seventh location in The Ritz-Carlton portfolio of Caribbean properties, joining existing hotels in St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands), Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Puerto Rico, Mexico and The Bahamas.

Continued on Page B4



Bon Dia Aruba loves the Magic Live at the Westin



PALM BEACH - BON DIA NEWS team, takes time out for a photo, after the Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show, with star magician, Adam Steinfeld, and the lovely Perlita, Princess-of-Magic, and the amazing awesome LULU-the-Gorilla, for a fun laugh-out-loud intelligent sophisticated magic theater show, superb new stage illusions! SEE MAGIC LIVE! now running, nightly 9PM, at the Westin Aruba, theater-of-illusions intimate showroom, Bon Dia team says; we loved it!...10 thumbs up! who floated in-the air, and, watched Perlita being sliced in half with a giant saimai sword, and much much more. ☐

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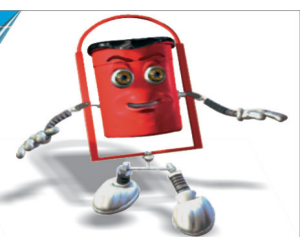


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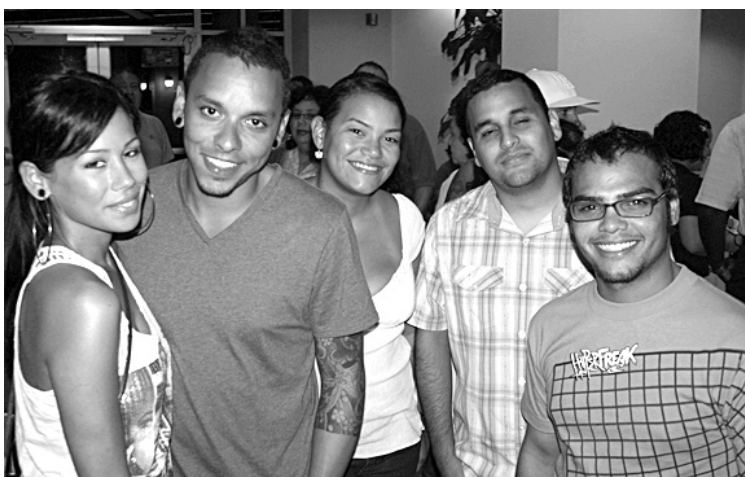
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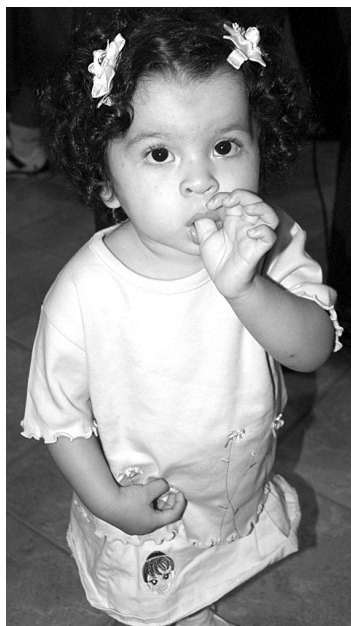


PALM BEACH -- Buckets of Knock Out Nachos and pails of Buffalo Wings were served on Champions 10th anniversary. The popular sports bar at the Marriott Ocean Club gave itself a memorable birthday party going back in time, rolling back a decade and affording the local florin great buying power, namely the ability to purchase anything off the restaurant's menu for just one Calco Indjan – a 10 florin bill, from 6 to 9 p.m., on Friday.

Predictably, the lines of locals and tourists formed early and wrapped around the lobby! Champions also unveiled new logo merchandise that evening, in addition to the world's very first Papiamento menu, serving Nachos Dal Abou, Ban Slip Riba Grill Sliders, and Hala di Candela wings, which are just three of the restaurant's best sellers, translated into juicy Papiamento.

On the occasions of its 10th anniversary, Champions recognized Gregory Milliard the Ultimate MMA Fighting Champion, in the Light Heavy Weight Category, the island's Mixed Martial Arts legend whose portrait now hangs on the restaurant's Wall of Fame.

Pictured here snapshots from the memorable, best birthday party! □



Richard J. Doumeng of Bolongo Bay Beach Resort Honored as Caribbean Hotelier of the Year



SAN JUAN – St. Thomas hotelier and industry veteran Richard J. Doumeng has been named the 2009 “Caribbean Hotelier of the Year” by the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA). Doumeng was honored with the award on January 10 before an international audience of hospitality and tourism industry leaders at Caribbean Marketplace 2010, hosted at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan. The Caribbean Hotelier of the Year Award is co-sponsored by Ypartnership and The New York Times.

Doumeng joins the ranks of preeminent lodging executives as the 32nd recipient of the

Caribbean Hotelier of the Year, the highest professional honor bestowed by CHTA. Presented annually, this prestigious award recognizes an outstanding hotelier in the Caribbean region for demonstrating excellence in all areas of hotel and resort operations, as well as a commitment to the training and development of staff, to the community and to sound environmental practices. The honor also acknowledges each recipient's active role in both national and regional issues affecting Caribbean tourism.

During his 15-year career as head of Bolongo Bay Beach Resort in St. Thomas, Doumeng has continued to grow the family-owned beach resort as one of the most popular resorts in the Caribbean, renowned for its friendly staff and personalized guest service. Part of the property's success in providing a superior lodging experience may be attributed to Doumeng's foresight in pioneering marketing and public relations programs on behalf of Bolongo Bay Beach Resort. Under his leadership, Bolongo was the first resort in

the Virgin Islands to partner with a relatively unknown Internet booking engine in 1997 – now one of the Web's preeminent mega-portals, Expedia.com. Doumeng also spearheaded the resort's destination weddings and events department, resulting in a more than 500 percent increase in group bookings over a four-year period.

To further staff training, Doumeng developed in-house training and incentive programs for management and guest services personnel, building loyalty among staff and exceptional guest satisfaction ratings. He also extended the resort's community development programs to offer career opportunities to local hospitality industry students.

Continuing this long history of community leadership, Doumeng currently serves on the board of the United Way. Previously, he served as vice president, president and as a member of the board for the USVI Hotel & Tourism Association. Additional outreach among local

organizations includes: the Project Safe Neighborhoods program; Rotary; high school football and baseball coaching; and Special Olympics.

Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association.

The Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA) facilitates the full potential of the Caribbean hotel and tourism industry by serving members' needs and building partnerships in a socially responsible and sustainable manner. CHTA was founded in 1962; it is the voice of the Caribbean hospitality

industry for the development of the region in the highly competitive and sophisticated environment of international tourism. Today, tourism is widely recognized as a pivotal industry in the economy of the region – and CHTA functions as the common denominator for this industry in a region of diverse nationalities, languages and styles, identifying mutual problems and marshalling the resources of the active and allied members to devise solutions. CHTA represents all facets of the hospitality industry with more than 725 member hotels and 525 allied members. □

Carlton is to open a luxury new resort on the Caribbean island of Aruba's famed Palm Beach

Continued from Page B1

“Aruba is an island destination with growing appeal to the discerning travelers from Europe and the United States. Its spectacular beaches and magnificent views make the island one of those exceptional places in the Southern Caribbean, blending serenity and scenic attractions our guests seek when planning a vacation,” said Ezzat Coutry, senior vice president, Southeast Region, Caribbean and Latin America, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company L.L.C. “It is an extraordinary location for luxury development on the island.”

Located off the coast of Venezuela, Aruba is renowned



Ritz Carlton Cayman Islands

for miles of white powder sand beaches and crystal blue water that boasts a warm tropical climate year-round. The 21 mile-long island is situated on the southern part of the Caribbean Sea and features many diverse influences as a result of its rich history.

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

is located in Palm Beach, home to some of the island's finest beaches. Lush tropical surroundings and a balmy temperature allow for swimming, sunbathing and relaxation by the water. The resort will bring a new level of elegance in accommodations and amenities to the island. □

ALOHA BRIDGE CLUB ARUBA (ABCA)

RESULTS THURSDAY, 7 JANUARY 2010

A total of 14 pairs attended the morning bridge session at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club Resort.

The following guest players attended: Gloria Manna, Fay and Carl Kallina, Janice and Jan Smink, Valerie Craane and partner, Maxine Lusk, Elsa Lampe and Pete Otterman.

The results 50% and higher are as follows:

- 1) Kathlyn Yarzagaray / Pete Otterman 69.10 %
- 2) George Manning / van der Horst 61.81 %
- 3) Gloria Manna / Carl Kallina 59.38 %
- 4) Margreet Kuiperdal / Ghislaine Mendes 58.33 %
- 5) Joke Henriquez / Annette Ybeles 55.56 %
- 6) Els Lacle / Ineke Jobse 52.43 %
- 7) Willy Flanegin / Maritza van Romondt 52.08 %.

RESULTS FRIDAY, 8 JANUARY 2010

The New Year's Tournament at the Frank Conway Room of the Casa del Mar Beach Resort attracted 17 pairs.

The following guest players joined: The results 50% and higher are as follows:

- 1) Kathlyn Yarzagaray / Iola Tjin-Tham-Sjin 58.33 %
Willy Flanegin / Joke Henriquez 58.33 %
- 2) Annette Ybeles / Maritza van Romondt 57.74 %
Gloria Manna / Carl Kallina 57.74 %
- 3) Janice and Jan Smink 57.14 %
- 4) Addy Eilers / Willem Jacobusse 54.46 %
- 5) Sheila Lampe / Edith Henriquez 53.87 %
- 6) Ineke Jobse / Toos Nierop 52.08 %
- 7) Nelly Aal / Gerry Meenhorst 50.71 %

Aloha Bridge Club Aruba meets twice a week: on Thursday mornings at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club, starting at 9.00 am and on Friday evenings at the Frank Conway Room of Casa del Mar starting at 7.30 pm. Signing up closes ten minutes before starting time. Fee for guest players: \$ 6.00 or Afl. 10.00 per person.

The club can also be of assistance in finding single players a bridge partner. Please call Addy Eilers : tel. 582-4953. □

FIGHTING COUNTERFEITING TO PROTECT CREATION



The fight against counterfeiting is a long-term element in Louis Vuitton's worldwide sustainability strategy. Louis Vuitton believes that it is essential to preserve the house's ancestral know-how and the work of its craftsmen by fighting the illegal networks that infringe on human rights, the environment and the global economy.

Louis Vuitton has been confronted with counterfeiting since the earliest days of its success. The highly distinctive Monogram canvas was created in 1896 by Georges Vuitton

in memory of his father, Louis Vuitton, the company's founder, in an effort to deter counterfeiters attracted by the brand's success, the attractiveness of its products and its world-class status.

As the premier global luxury brand, Louis Vuitton continues to be a primary target of counterfeiters around the world today. Counterfeiting Louis Vuitton is stealing the craftsmanship of the artisans responsible for its success and pillaging the investments made to develop the brand.

The sale of counterfeit goods

is a serious offense whose revenue funds criminal organisations at the expense of consumers, companies and governments. It calls for the responsible behaviour of all economic actors, in particular consumers notably on the Internet, now a favoured platform for counterfeit sellers.

Only by fighting counterfeiting together can significant progress be made. Louis Vuitton has a zero tolerance policy to counterfeiting.

Louis Vuitton's Intellectual Property Department (which oversees the entire LVMH Fashion and Leather Goods branch) was created twenty years ago to manage strategic assets including trademarks, designs and copyrights. Today, it employs a fully-dedicated team with multicultural yet complementary profiles such as lawyers and former law enforcement agents.

With the support of 250 trademark agents around the world, almost 11,500 rights are registered, defended and managed. Hundreds of contracts are also implemented every year to protect various creative projects.

Thanks to coordinators based in Paris with regional offices in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Milan, Dubai, New York and Buenos Aires, thousands of anti-counterfeiting raids are performed each year. In 2008,



Louis Vuitton initiated 8,228 raids (30 per day) and 21,040 anti-counterfeiting procedures worldwide, resulting in the seizure of thousands of counterfeit products and the breaking up of criminal networks.

Last but not least, the Internet division of the Intellectual Property Department registers domain names, fights cybersquatting and tracks counterfeiting online by monitoring the net, in particular search engines, directories and auction platforms. More than 400 litigious websites were shut down in 2008.

This centralized and hands-on approach towards the counterfeiting market contributes to the success of Louis Vuitton's efforts to protect the brand.

Pioneering the use of the contributory liability principle



to fight counterfeiting, in 2003 Louis Vuitton successfully initiated a program targeting "intermediaries" whose services are used by underground counterfeit networks, such as landlords, payment facilities and carrier companies. This program has been very effective in preventing the sale of Louis Vuitton counterfeits in certain counterfeiting hotspots like New York's Canal Street.

The fight against counterfeiting is a long-term battle but Louis Vuitton is more determined than ever to protect and preserve the value of the brand in the interest of its clients.

Louis Vuitton guarantees authenticity by means of an exclusive distribution network; Louis Vuitton products are only sold in Louis Vuitton stores and through the website www.louisvuitton.com. □



FOR SALE



Bubali 113-L

This luxurious 3 bedroom villa is located in the Villa park Bubali and has been designed by one of Aruba's well known Architects. With over 100 m² of living room/entertaining space, facing large covered open plan terraces, swimming pool and gardens.

This furnished villa is built on 1173 m² of property land. The villa benefits from a state of the art open plan kitchen and entertaining space, integrated double garage and alarm system with tv screen.

US\$ 950,000

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HUMAN HINTS

Crisis Management - Part 1

The current timeline shows a strong probability that we might be headed toward upheaval in the near future. It is time to address this issue, not to empower the probability of a tumultuous future, but to prepare you for the unfamiliar emotional forces you might encounter, guide you through the uncertainty and keep you focused on what is really important to you, your family and your loved-ones.

For individual people, dramatic, unexpected

change will evoke our emotion on a level we are not accustomed to. This generation has never faced the disruption of business as usual. If the future does hold these powerful forces, knowing how we react will help us gain control over our reactions. We have already experienced our own personal reactions to worldwide broadcast images and news events, so we do have some idea of how we are prone to react. For a brief moment, remember the sensation of

horror overcoming your entire being. This is the sensation to watch out for and reject in the future.

On the scale of Worldwide Human Consciousness, large-scale upheaval leads the Human Race to become Unified and Singularly Focused on a single event. It is very hard to go against the grain of the entire Human Consciousness, but it is necessary for each of us to accomplish just that. When we learn to focus on the negative as a Single Unit, we will know how to focus on the positive as a Single Unit. When the Human Race is singularly focused, the Mass Consciousness can be easily swayed as a whole.

It will take but a moment to sway most of humanity from the negative to the positive. This will be effortless, graceful and natural, so don't worry.

If unfortunate events do occur, do not become emotionally involved. Do not follow the masses. Understand the events on a logical level only. No matter how tragic they may seem, do not let your emotions

become involved. Your emotions will not help the situation. You can detach your emotions by seeing the Human events in the context of the big picture of what is occurring on Earth at this moment in Time. I know this sounds beyond crass at first, but it makes sense with further examination. Our emotional energy empowers whatever vibrational frequency it is aligned with. When we remove our emotions from the events, we remove our support of the events. When three dimensional, ego-based events don't get the support they expect and need, they disappear.

Understand that death of the physical body is simply a transformation of our Spirit. The Spirit does not die when it leaves the body, it simply transforms, like a butterfly. When it leaves the body, our Spirit becomes free from the cellular memory we've been trapped in all our lives. Without our selfish ego involved, death would be viewed as a celebration of natural completion. Because ego is selfish, we feel loss and anger at the

person for leaving us. When ego is involved, everything is always about us.

Tomorrow, we will discuss more techniques that will help you detach your emotions from possible worldwide events.

Until Tomorrow...

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and been in the audience of new age channels. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

PG	FANTASTIC MR. FOX	daily: 4:00	6:00	NEW
	matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show:	
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 4:45	7:00	
	matinee: 12:15	2:30	late show:	
PG-13	THE BLIND SIDE	daily: 4:00	6:45	9:30
	matinee: 1:15		late show: 12:00	
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 4:00	6:00	
	matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show:	
PG	OLD DOGS	daily: 4:15	6:15	8:15
	matinee: 12:15	2:15	late show: 10:15	12:15
PG-13	2012	daily: 8:00		
	matinee:	late show: 11:15		
R	NINJA ASSASSIN	daily: 9:15		
	matinee:	late show: 11:30		
PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily: 4:30	7:45	
	matinee: 1:15		late show: 11:00	
R	THE MAN WHO STARE AT GOATS	daily: 8:00	10:15	
	matinee:	late show: 12:30		

AT PASEO HERENCIA

R	IT'S COMPLICATED	daily: 6:45	9:15	NEW
	matinee:	late show: 11:45		
PG-13	SHERLOCK HOLMES	daily: 5:30	8:30	
	matinee: 2:30	late show: 11:30		
PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 4:00	6:00	
	matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show:	
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 4:30		
	matinee: 12:00	2:15	late show:	
PG-13	2012	daily: 8:00		
	matinee:	late show: 11:15		
PG-13	DID YOY HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS	daily: 5:00		
	matinee: 12:30	2:45	late show:	
PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily: 4:45	8:00	
	matinee: 1:30		late show: 11:15	
R	ARMORED	daily: 7:30	9:30	
	matinee:	late show: 11:30		
PG-13	THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS	daily: 6:00	8:45	
	matinee: 12:45	3:30	late show: 11:30	

Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat

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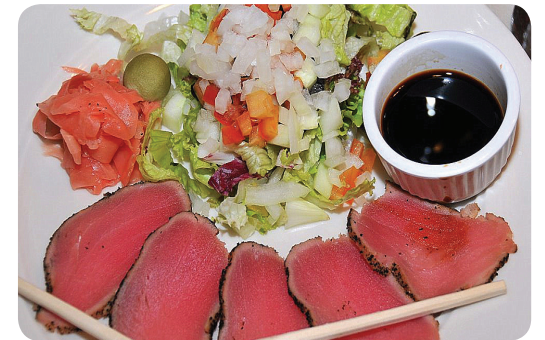



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the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

only with fresh and honest products! Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as they have a super kids menu, so they can enjoy their dinner as much as you

will yours!

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square are open until eleven. See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

Open from 4 pm until midnight

For reservations call
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PALM BEACH - Red Sail Sports' catamaran will take you on an unforgettable journey: the Mexican Dinner Sail. Your trip includes a Live Mariachi Band, Mexican Food and an open bar with Tequila, Coronitas and Margaritas. The Mexican Party Sails on Friday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing aboard Red Sail Sports' top quality, luxurious catamarans.

Set sail and join Red Sail Sports Half Day Luncheon Snorkel Sail or the romantic Sunset Sail. Red Sail Sports also offers a Dinner Sail which combines a sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and a spectacular view of the sunset with a tantalizing buffet catered by award-winning chefs. If you want to discover Aruba's underwater world, be sure to get in touch with Red Sail Sports. Learn to dive in one

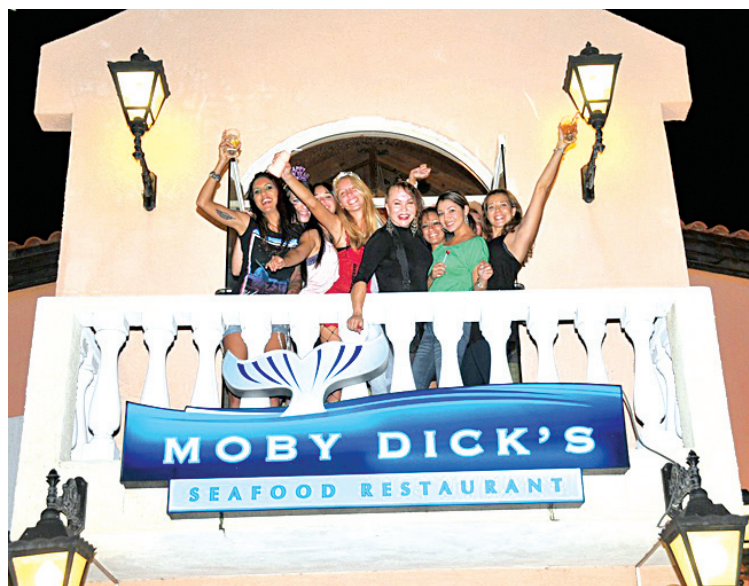


day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's lead-ing dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.

To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsail-aruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.

Celebrating with family and friends at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant & Grill

Julieta leaves her tail in the sea for Marco



PALM BEACH - One of Aruba's favorite Mermaids who swam all the way from Argentina to find her prince married last weekend here on Aruba.

Congratulations Julieta Durotovich and Marco Muscariello who celebrated their love for one another with vows of marriage and family. Pictures show Julieta with her sister, mom, tia, prima and friends celebrating her bachelorette Party at Moby Dick's in the Paseo Mall. The group of ladies enjoyed an evening of fun in the sea in the upstairs dining room of the restaurant. Pictured together with the group is co-owner Lus Marina Reeve. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Rates:

\$380 - 1/2 day

\$760- full day

Rates per boat

Max. 6 people



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

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www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.

SUPERB NEW ILLUSIONS

MAGIC Live!. Comedy On the Beach 3 shows in 1



Magician Adam Steinfeld laughs it up, on stage, at the Magic Live!® theater, showroom.

ASTONISHING! EXCITING! MYSTIFYING! FUN! ...enjoy a hilarious evening of Magic, fun for entire family.

PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show, Westin - Aruba opened on December 25 at 9PM. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's

highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld opened DEC 25, MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live!

theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer

Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
Group Sales: 561-1090
website: www.MagicLive.com
Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

Logos Hope helps FPNC with the warehouse for the Aruba's Food Bank



ORANJESTAD - Logos Hope is on Aruba till January the 17th. Next to their expanded selection of over 7,500 books that covers a range of subjects including science, sports, hobbies and religion during their stay they serve

the community as well. At every harbor they join one or two volunteer projects to help. They have teams from the ship that will also be working on shore with the hospital, the prison and other organizations in Aruba to share knowledge,

help and hope.

For the community project on Aruba they got in contact with FPNC and offered to help to prepare the warehouse for the Food-, Clothes- and Furniture Bank. The warehouse needed 45 meters of shelves to store food, clothes and house hold goods, plus 10 storage tables with each 6 separate bins to store cans and other things. They called FPNC on Wednesday evening, came for a check-up on location on Thursday. Called the same afternoon back at 5.30pm that they calculated that they would need 55 sheets of plywood and 2000 screws to be able to help us on Saturday and Sunday. They offered their labor and help for free.

Due to the help of Codemsa, it was made possible that the material was present on location at Saturday morning 7.30 am sharp. The team of 5 carpenters and 'handy men' of Logos Hope arrived not much later and started immediate with building. Sunday afternoon at 4.30 pm the job was already done. FPNC is overwhelmed about the quick and generous support. Never had they expected to be ready so soon for the Community Collection Day on January the 23th.

In the name of the Board of Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad we want to give out a warm thank you to the whole team of Logos Hope. They showed us that together it is possible to make a difference and serve the people in need.

FPNC wishes the all-volunteer crew and staff comprise of around 400 people representing 45 different nations a lot of success during their voyage around the world.

Everybody can visit Logos Hope. They are open daily to the public till the January the 17th from 10am till 9pm and Sunday and Monday from 2 till 9pm.

For more information please visit our website www.fpncaruba.com or call Claudie Wegdam at #7321972. ☐





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GOL Sees High December Traffic

By: Zacks Equity Research
On Friday, GOL Linhas Aereas Inteligentes S.A. announced its preliminary passenger traffic figures for December 2009. In December, Gol's total passenger traffic grew by 34.8% in relation to the same period last year, reflecting Gol's better positioning in its markets in 2009 and increased demand due to recovery in Brazil's economy.

Domestic passenger traffic increased 36.2% in relation to December 2008, and international passenger traffic increased 23.9% year over year.

Increase in domestic passengers was primarily due to the start of summer season from December. International traffic was up due to adjustments to Gol's international network, which sought to improve this segment's profitability by launching new routes between Brazil and the Caribbean with flights to Aruba and Curacao, and adjustments to the frequency of flights to Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Bolivia and Venezuela. In addition, international traffic benefited from the decline in the U.S. dollar exchange rate and the economic recovery in Brazil and South America.

In the third quarter of 2009, domestic passenger traffic increased 31.3%, while its international passenger traffic decreased 52.7% due to its decision to discontinue intercontinental routes.

However, Gol remains better

positioned to capitalize on the raise of discounted air travel in Brazil and the rest of Latin America given its strong market share and efficient operations. We expect Gol to experience growth in the short-to-medium term given its continued investment in fleet renovation and international agreements. Moreover, Latin American and China's airline stocks have performed well in 2009. We believe that 2010 may be another profitable year for the airlines industry in emerging markets provided the overall economy continues to grow. Current estimates for 2010 suggest that the economic growth in emerging markets will be higher than developed markets.

Thus, we maintain an Outperform recommendation on the shares of Gol. □

Samuel requests urgent meeting of Parliament justice committee

~ Urges businesses to close for funeral today ~

MIDDLE REGION--National Alliance (NA) Parliamentarian Rodolphe Samuel has written to President of Parliament Pedro Atacho requesting an urgent meeting of Parliament's Justice Committee to address the rise in crime in St. Maarten with the aim of instructing the Central Government to do more to remedy the situation. Samuel's letter will be delivered to Atacho today, Monday. He is hopeful that the meeting will be called as soon as possible, because the crime situation, which saw six murders and a large number of robberies and assaults last year, needs to be corrected now.

Parliament is on recess and is expected to resume sessions on January 25, but Samuel said it was definitely worth breaking the recess for problems in St. Maarten and hopes for the support of the other parliamentarians supporting the Central Government coalition, in particular the support of the two other St. Maarten parliamentarians, George Pantophlet (NA) and Erno Labega (DP). The recently formed United Task Force Against Crime will have its say at the Justice Committee meeting. This is why Samuel has requested that the meeting be held in St. Maarten. The task force is already working on possible ways to stem the rise in violence and other crimes.

The task force comprises community councils, the business community, concerned groups and individuals who have all been touched by crime

directly and/or indirectly.

Momentum for the task force came with the murder of Afoo Food Club Manager Eric Yuan Sam in a robbery on December 29. He was the third person to be killed in December. A pregnant woman was injured in the shooting.

Members of the Chinese community have decided to close all their businesses today, Monday, in respect for the family as they lay Sam to rest, and to bring awareness about the rise in crime.

Similarly, the Indian Merchants Association (IMA) has urged its members to close for an hour, from 9:00am to 10:00am, in respect for Sam and last year's other five murder victims and their families, as well as for the victims of crime in general.

IMA and the Chinese Association fully support and are involved with the task force and hope it can find ways for the community to become more active in the fight against crime, which has already taken a toll on the residents' way of life and can severely harm tourism, the economic pillar of the island. Samuel, also a businessman, has thrown his support behind the task force and has also taken the decision to close his establishment Margarita Grocery and Bakery in Middle Region during the time of the funeral as a token of respect.

"Crime is everybody's business and we need to find workable solutions now and not just talk, but have action," Samuel said. □

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OF \$39k

Presidents Week

Oceanfront \$40k

Gold

GV \$12k

OV \$14k

OS \$16k

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Faithful pray for healing and prosperity for island

PHILIPSBURG--Prayers for healing of wounds caused by crime, easing of hardship brought on by the economic crisis, strength for the tough homestretch to country status and for stable government were offered in the National Day of Prayer held on Clem Labega Square on Sunday. Although the square was not overflowing as it had been in previous years, the rejoicing in song and scripture was still as fervent. This is the sixth year the Council of Churches and government have organised this open air service to thank God for the past year and to pray for guidance in the months to come.

Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards said residents had much to pray for this year "as we confront life's everyday difficulties and as we together prepare to embark on a challenging journey to become a country."

"Let God unite us truly as one nation, a nation in which we all feel that we have a stake, a voice and a future. Let's ask God that He instil genuine humility and a blend of integrity in our hearts. Let us ask God to heal our island that is suffering in so many ways, especially that of crime," the Lt. Governor said.

Themed "Reclaiming St. Maarten for Jesus," the prayer service had a mixture of worship and speeches by politicians similar to past years.

Annette Philips, on behalf of French-side President Franz Gumbs, addressed the gathering that included Richards and his wife Angela, Deputy Plenipotentiary Minister Mavis Brooks-Salmon, Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman, Island Councilmen Rodolphe Samuel and George Pantophlet and his wife Augustine, and opposition leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams.

Philips said St. Maarten/St. Martin was blessed and the people must continue to pray and ask God to keep giving His protection for the island and especially for its troubled youth. She also urged parents to spend quality time with their children.

Church/State separation

Commissioner Marlin, addressing the separation of church and state, told worshipers gathered on the square in front of the Government Administration Building, "The separation between church and state, as I understand it, is not meant to be a divorce. To the contrary, it is supposed to lead to mutual respect, and a relationship based on a common belief: that we are all God's children."

He said the church should be seen as an agent of fundamental change in the dangerous direction society sometimes took. It should also become involved and let its voice be heard loud and clear on subjects such as crime.

Similarly, the church cannot and should not remain silent when children are deliberately left out of school because of their immigration status, which is not their fault, the commissioner with responsibility for education said. "Education is not an immigration issue. It is not just a social issue; it is also a spiritual issue. ... We cannot claim to be God-fearing people and yet discriminate against children in such a way that

we deny them education.

Marlin continued: "The Church has been a dominant part of education on our island. ... St. Maarten cannot develop without the Church being part of that development in an enlightened way."

He added that government, like any person, needed prayers, not just because Christians were required to pray for their leaders, but also because all government's plans would be nothing if God's approval was not sought first.

Church and state together and the whole island must move forward to face the challenges of 2010 and beyond, Marlin said. These challenges include reducing crime, creating jobs, improving the educational system, setting up the structures for country status and "marching towards 10-10-10 together, confident that we are the Joshua generation, destined to get to the promised land of country St. Maarten."

The Promised Land

Marlin likened the quest for country status to the Bible Scripture about the 12 scouts sent to check out the Land of Canaan – the Promised Land – 10 of whom came back saying it was mission impossible because it was full of giants. Only two were confident that those giants could be defeated and the land promised as inheritance to the children of God would become theirs.

"God doesn't work with a misguided majority. He chooses an enlightened, I guess some of you would say an anointed, few to accomplish His plans. That is why one with God is a majority," he said.

This scripture is very relevant to the quest for country status because the Island Council has 12 members, 11 elected and one, the chairman, appointed by the Crown, Marlin pointed out.

"We may not be the 12 scouts spying on the land of Canaan, but we have been repeatedly told also that it is impossible for St. Maarten to become a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands because there are too many giant problems the island cannot handle. 10-10-10, exactly nine months to that glorious date today, by the grace of God, we are now camping on the outskirts of our own Canaan right now."

The church has an important role to play in the development of the island, Pastor Conroy Thomas said in his sermon. He urged the community to come together to tackle the challenges that lie ahead in this year, to make the island more resilient and connected to God.

Commissioner Hyacinth Richardson thanked everyone who had been involved with the planning and executing the sixth annual National Day of Prayer.

Sharing their talents in the service were the Harmonics, Philipsburg Roman Catholic Choir, Rita Richardson, Diana La Point, Methodist Agogic Centre School Choir, Church of God Youth Choir, Grace Fellowship Youth Choir, Christian Fellowship Church Inspirational Dancers, Pastor Wycliffe Smith, Pastor Orlando Wilson, Brother Charlies Davis, Reverend Charles Seaton and Apostle Elmead Allen, among others. □

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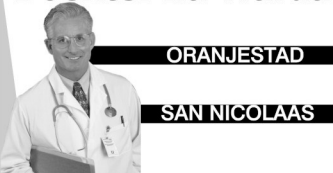
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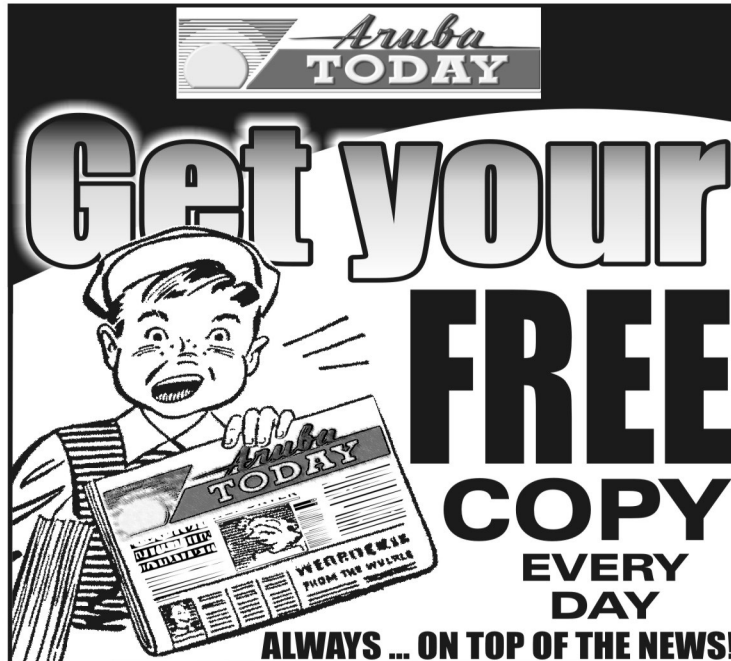
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Honduras: Zelaya critica a Lobo por impulsar amnistía



El depuesto presidente hondureño Manuel Zelaya habla con la prensa en la embajada brasileña en Tegucigalpa, donde se refugió tras regresar clandestinamente al país. Un colaborador le sostiene el sombrero. (AP Photo/Carlos Guerrero, file)

Iglesia colombiana a la espera de nueva reunión sobre rehenes

BOGOTA (AP) - Voceros de la iglesia católica afirmaron el lunes que esperan reunirse en unos 10 días con delegados de la Cruz Roja Internacional, del gobierno y una congresista en busca de reactivar los arreglos para la liberación de dos militares en manos de las FARC, uno de ellos en cautiverio hace más de una década.

El secretario general de la Conferencia Episcopal, monseñor Juan Vicente Córdoba, indicó además que carece de una información oficial en torno a que las guerrillas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) rechazaron una eventual participación de Brasil, como destacaron informes de la prensa local el fin de semana, como país garante o que preste ayuda para el operativo de liberación y recoger a los dos secuestrados en algún punto de la selva.

“No he tenido ninguna confirmación oficial de ese dato” sobre Brasil, indicó Córdoba en entrevista telefónica.

“Para mí hay que seguir trabajando porque las dos partes, FARC y el gobierno, han dicho estar firmes en que se den estas liberaciones”, agregó el prelado, que junto con el Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja (CICR) y la senadora Piedad Córdoba están autorizados desde el año pasado por el gobierno para realizar las gestiones ante los rebeldes en busca de concretar la entrega de los dos rehenes.

El secretario de la Conferencia dijo también que espera que en unos 10 días pueda reunirse con delegados del CICR o con la senadora y a la vez con el Alto Comisionado para la Paz, Frank Pearl, para reactivar las gestiones en busca de la entrega, un

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) - El derrocado presidente Manuel Zelaya criticó el lunes al mandatario electo Porfirio Lobo por impulsar una amnistía política para favorecer a los involucrados en el golpe de estado de junio de 2009 que lo expulsó del poder.

“¿De quién es esa iniciativa (de aprobar la amnistía)?”, se preguntó Zelaya en una entrevista a radio Globo. “No es de la comunidad internacional, como lo pregona Lobo, eso no es cierto”.

Indicó que “es una intención de los golpistas para querer engañar al mundo que condena mi destitución y no reconoce el gobierno de facto de (Roberto) Micheletti”.

Acusó asimismo a la Corte Suprema, la fiscalía y el congreso de “conspirar contra mí al dar el golpe” y denunció que “una burguesía ha tomado el poder en Honduras para controlar el sistema financiero nacional y convertirse en verdugo de su propio pueblo... y eso no quedará impune ni se puede ocultar”.

Advirtió que “la Corte Penal Internacional (de

las Naciones Unidas) conoce el caso... y actuará en su momento”. El presidente defenestrado dijo que “el pueblo se está organizando para impedir que la amnistía la apruebe el congreso”.

Informó que el 27 de enero, cuando Lobo asuma para una gestión de cuatro años, “el pueblo marchará en todo el país a fin de protestar por el cinismo y la falta de vergüenza de la clase gobernante que ha convertido en sus sirvientes a los poderes del estado”.

Destacó que “los hondureños resienten la idea de olvidar lo que ocurrió el 28 de junio (cuando fue derrocado) y está dispuesto a cambiar la estructura social para vivir en un clima de equidad social”. Sostuvo además que “como no he cometido ningún delito, no quiero la amnistía”.

El presidente costarricense Oscar Arias, que fue mediador en la crisis política hondureña, incluyó el tema de la amnistía en la Declaración de San José que presentó a la consideración de Zelaya, Micheletti y la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA). □

Perú:

Presidente García dice que no le molesta su sobrepeso

LIMA (AP) - El presidente Alan García dijo el domingo por la noche que no le molesta su sobrepeso y añadió que seguirá así porque “es lo único que pueden criticar” sus opositores. “No me fastidia (tener sobrepeso) porque si eso es lo único que pueden opinar entonces quiere decir que no tienen otra cosa qué criticar y eso es muy bueno”, dijo García en una entrevista a la televisora Panamericana. “Cuando dicen, ‘está gordo’, bueno, sí pues, se descuidó uno, la gente es muy cariñosa, a uno ya lo están invitando (a comer) y no sólo (como) por obligación sino que uno come porque está rico lo que la señora está cocinando”.

“Si eso (mi sobrepeso) es lo único que critican, entonces seguiré así porque imagínese que baje de peso, comenzarían a decir cualquier otra barbaridad”, dijo en referencia a quienes lo cuestionan. García ha sido llamado “gordo” en dos oportunidades por el mandatario de Bolivia, Evo Morales, en un cruce de palabras que ambos sostienen al menos desde el 2006.

Asimismo, el comediante estadounidense Conan O’Brien se ha referido en el 2009 al sobrepeso del presidente peruano en el programa The Tonight Show. No se conoce el actual peso de García. □



Grandes firmas de EEUU son afectadas por devaluación Venezuela

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Las compañías de Estados Unidos sufrirán por la devaluación de la moneda venezolana, dado que muchos de sus productos subirán de precio y eso afectará sus ganancias.

Avon Products Inc y Colgate-Palmolive Co habrían de sentir el mayor golpe en el sector de productos domésticos y personales, dado que obtienen un mayor porcentaje de sus ventas totales de Venezuela que sus rivales.

Los ítems clasificados como "no-esenciales" ahora tendrán un tipo de cambio de 4,3 bolívares por dólar, más de los 2,15 previos. Ese nivel se compara con un nuevo tipo de cambio de 2,6 bolívares por dólar para las importaciones esenciales, como los alimentos.

Eso significa que las compañías que habían estado trasladando sus resultados de Venezuela a dólares según la tasa oficial de 2,15, ahora deben hacerlo a 4,3 si los productos son clasificados como no-esenciales.

El analista de BMO, Connie Maneaty, redujo el lunes a todo el sector de cuidado personal y doméstico a "promedio de mercado" desde "por encima del promedio del mercado".

Ecuador mantiene distancia del BM y el FMI

QUITO (AP) - Ecuador se mantiene alejado del Banco Mundial (BM) y del Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) y busca relación con organismos que no cuestionen su política económica, dijo el ministro coordinador de Política Económica, Diego Borja.

En una entrevista exclusiva publicada el lunes por el semanario Líderes, preguntado si este país acudirá al BM o al FMI para financiar un déficit fiscal estimado en 4.000 millones de dólares, respondió: "no, trabajamos con organismos que no nos condicionen la política económica".

Destacó que la manera de financiar el déficit es a través de "inversionistas privados y públicos interesados en nuestros proyectos, ya sea como inversión extranjera directa o deuda".

Para ello, la ministra de Finanzas, María Elsa Viteri, se encuentra en China para negociar el financiamiento para el proyecto hidroeléctrico Coca-Codo Sinclair, el más grande del país, además de lo cual siguen las gestiones para "buscar recursos (económicos) alternativos",

Maneaty había degradado a Avon, Colgate y Kimberly-Clark Corp a principios de diciembre por temor a una potencial devaluación. El lunes, bajó la nota de Procter & Gamble Co.

También recortó las estimaciones de firmas que operan en Venezuela, como Avon, Colgate y Energizer Holdings Inc, y redujo los precios objetivos de las acciones de las tres.

Los títulos de Avon caían un 3,7 por ciento en la mañana, la peor baja en el sector; mientras que los de Energizer cedían un 2 por ciento, los de P&G restaban un 1,9 por ciento y los de Colgate y Kimberly-Clark perdían un 1,8 por ciento cada uno.

Las empresas expuestas a Venezuela podrían sentir un golpe promedio a las ganancias de alrededor de un 2 por ciento, estimó Bill Pecoriello, de Consumer Edge Research. Su firma calculó un golpe de ganancias por acción de alrededor de un 6 por ciento para Avon, de un 4,7 por ciento para Colgate y de un 2,7 por ciento para Energizer. Otras firmas de productos de consumo, alimentos y bebidas de Estados Unidos serían

menos afectadas.

COLGATE, UNICA PROYECCION

Colgate dijo el lunes que espera reconocer un beneficio excepcional en el primer trimestre y cargos posteriores durante el 2010 ligados a la devaluación, que no habría de afectar a su posición financiera. Venezuela supone un 6 por ciento de las ventas de Colgate, según los analistas.

P&G, el mayor fabricante mundial de productos domésticos, deriva más ventas de Venezuela que sus rivales, pero esas ventas suponen un porcentaje menor, desconocido, de sus ventas totales.

En octubre, Avon dijo que Venezuela suponía alrededor de un 5 por ciento de los ingresos y un 11 por ciento de las ganancias operacionales durante los primeros nueve meses del 2009.

En ese momento, dijo que si Venezuela era designada como una economía de alta inflación y no había una devaluación, sus utilidades serían afectadas. Portavoces de Avon y P&G dijeron que sus compañías revisaban la situación. Una portavoz de Energizer no pudo ser contactada. □



Las compañías de Estados Unidos sufrirán por la devaluación de la moneda venezolana, dado que muchos de sus productos subirán de precio y eso afectará sus ganancias. Avon Products Inc y Colgate-Palmolive Co habrían de sentir el mayor golpe en el sector de productos domésticos y personales, dado que obtienen un mayor porcentaje de sus ventas totales de Venezuela que sus rivales. REUTERS/ARCHIV

Chile firma ingreso a la OCDE

SANTIAGO DE CHILE (AP) - La presidenta Michelle Bachelet firmó el lunes el ingreso de Chile a la Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económico, OCDE, cuyo secretario general Angel Gurría, destacó las políticas económicas desplegadas por este país en los últimos 20 años.

Chile se convirtió en el 31er miembro de la OCDE, constituyéndose en el primer país Sudamericano y en el segundo de Latinoamérica, después de México, en ser incorporado a ese organismo. La ceremonia de firma se realizó en uno de los patios de la sede de gobierno. □



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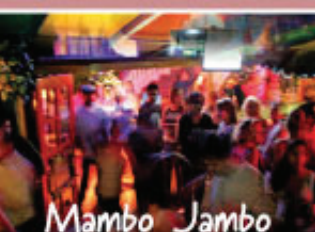
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www.chinolatinoaruba.com



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www.mambojamboaruba.com



Hadicurari Restaurant (between MooMba Beach and Marriott Surf Club)
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Phone: 586-2288
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Restaurant open from 8:00 am - 11:00 pm
7 days a week
www.hadicurari.com



www.arubawineanddine.com

